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VALUETRUST

FINANCIAL EXPERTS IN ACTION

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Dear business partners and friends of ValueTrust,

We are pleased to release our fifteenth edition of the ValueTrust European Capital Market Study for Q4 2024. Within this Study, we provide certain cost of capital inputs required to perform an enterprise valuation in Europe. The Study also shows trends of the analyzed data over time.

In this Study we provide:

- The relevant parameters used to calculate the cost of capital under the CAPM, including risk-free rate, market risk premium and beta.
- Implied and historical market/sector returns.
- Capital structure-adjusted implied sector returns, which serve as an indicator for the **unlevered cost of equity** (the **relevered cost of equity** can be calculated by adapting the company specific debt situation to the **unlevered cost of equity**, serving as an alternative to the CAPM).
- An analysis of empirical (ex-post) cost of equity in the form of **total shareholder returns** consisting of capital gains and dividends (total shareholder returns can be used as a plausibility check for the implied (ex-ante) returns).
- A trading multiples overview.

We examine the relevant cost of capital parameters for the **European capital market** in form of the STOXX Europe 600. This index includes the countries Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland as well as the UK and has been subdivided **into ten sector indices by industry**¹⁾: Financials, Consumer Cyclicals, Consumer Non-Cyclicals, Healthcare, Technology, Utilities, Energy, Basic Materials, Industrials and Real Estate.

Historical data was compiled between the reference dates **31 December 2018** and **31 December 2024** and is **updated semi-annually** with the objective to track capital market performance over time.

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- He has more than 30 years of experience in corporate valuation and financial advisory
- He is Honorary Professor for "Practice of transaction-oriented company valuation and value-oriented management" at the LMU in Munich
- He is member of the DVFA Expert Group "Fairness Opinions" and "Best Practice Recommendations Corporate Valuation"
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- Benedikt leads the Swiss operations, the Financial Advisory business as well as the VC and Digital Valuation practice
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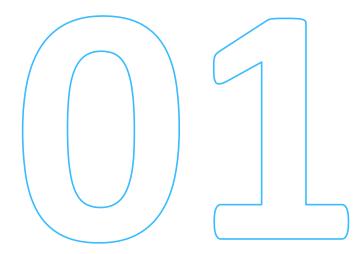
DISCLAIMER

This Study presents an empirical analysis which serves the purpose of illustrating the cost of capital of European capital markets. The available information and the corresponding exemplifications do not allow for a complete presentation of a proper derivation of cost of capital. Furthermore, the market participant must consider that the company specific cost of capital can vary widely due to individual corporate circumstances.

The listed information is not specific to anyone and consequently, it cannot be directed to an individual or juristic person. Although we are always striving for reliable, accurate and current information, we cannot guarantee that the data is applicable in current and future valuation analyses. The same applies to the underlying data from the data provider London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG).

We recommend a self-contained, technical, and detailed analysis of the specific situation and we dissuade from acting solely based on the information provided.

ValueTrust and its co-authors do not assume any responsibility or liability for the up-to-datedness, completeness or accuracy of this Study or its contents.

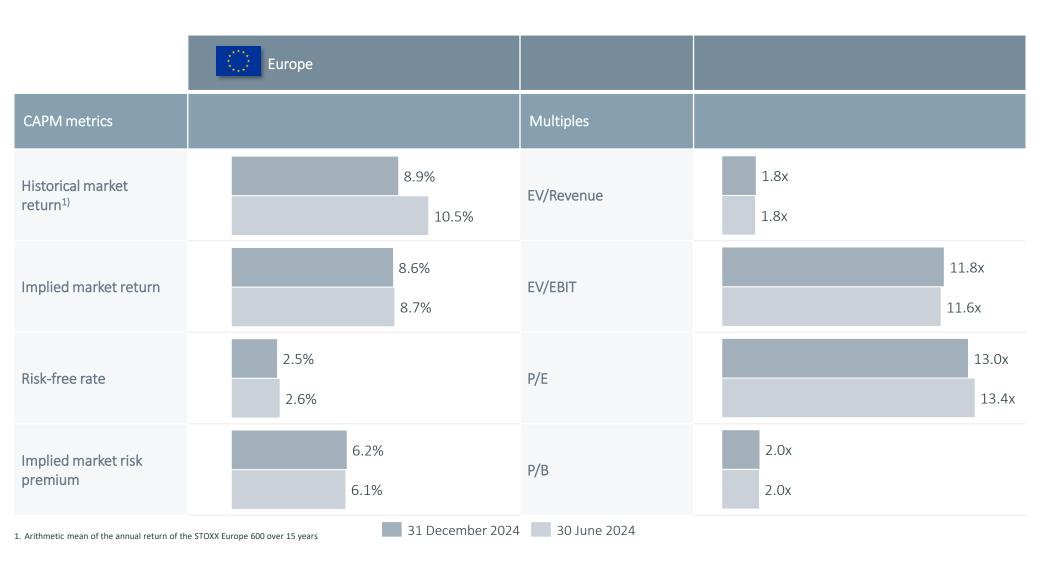


Executive summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The implied market risk premium remained stable due to small declines in the implied market return and the risk-free rate; in contrast, the historical market return dropped by 1.6%-points

Market risk premium and trading multiples for Europe, Q4 2024



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite challenges from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the acceleration of automation, AI, and digitalization further catalyzed by COVID-19 has driven strong returns in the Technology sector

Cost of equity by sector and methodology for Europe, Q4 2024

Sectors	Implied levered cost of equity	Levered cost of equity (CAPM) ¹⁾	1 / PE-ratio (1yf)	Total shareholder return (Ø 6y) ²⁾
Financials	11.7%	9.9%	11.5%	18.2%
Consumer Cyclicals	7.9%	9.7%	6.8%	17.5%
Consumer Non-Cyclicals	8.1%	6.6%	6.8%	8.0%
W Healthcare	7.9%	7.2%	6.5%	14.4%
Technology	6.0%	9.2%	4.7%	21.0%
Utilities	9.0%	6.9%	8.4%	14.0%
† Energy	12.1%	9.4%	12.5%	16.2%
Basic Materials	7.8%	9.1%	7.2%	14.8%
Industrials	7.2%	9.6%	5.8%	21.2%
Real Estate	7.1%	9.9%	7.1%	8.1%

^{1.} Based on 5-year sector beta, risk-free rate of 2.46% and implied market risk premium of 6.2% for the European market;

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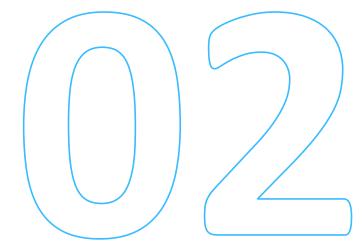
^{2.} Total shareholder returns can be viewed as historic, realized cost of equity. However, it has to be considered that total shareholder returns vary widely, depending on the relevant time period.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Technology and Industrials valuations remain high due to strong growth, while Healthcare multiples remain elevated despite weakening earnings estimates and market cap

Trading multiples by sector for Europe, Q4 2024

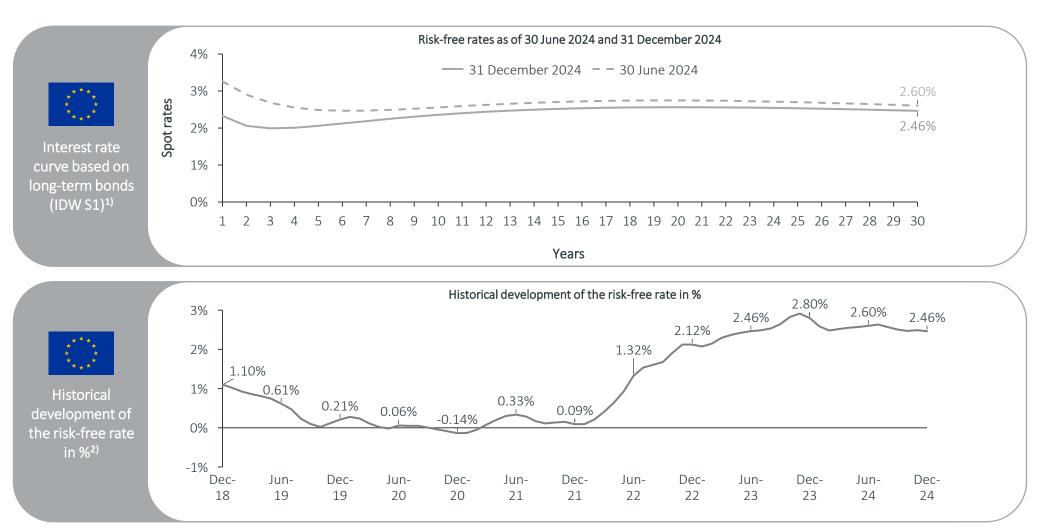
Sectors	EV/Revenue 1yf	EV/EBIT 1yf	P/E 1yf	P/B LTM
Financials	n.a.	n.a.	8.7x	1.2x
Consumer Cyclicals	1.3x	12.6x	14.6x	1.9x
Consumer Non-Cyclicals	1.7x	12.9x	14.8x	3.0x
W Healthcare	3.3x	13.0x	15.4x	4.1x
Technology	3.2x	17.4x	21.4x	3.2x
Utilities	1.6x	11.6x	11.9x	1.3x
f Energy	0.7x	6.2x	8.0x	1.1x
Basic Materials	1.2x	11.2x	14.0x	1.6x
Industrials	1.6x	14.1x	17.2x	3.2x
Real Estate	15.6x	20.5x	14.2x	0.8x
Europe (All)	1.8x	11.8x	13.0x	2.0x



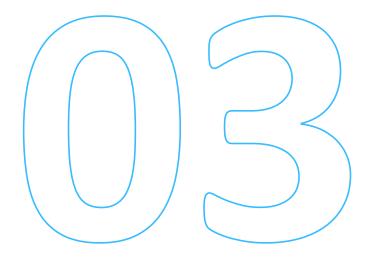
Risk-free rate

Reflecting the ECB's gradual easing of its monetary policy, Europe's risk-free rate decreased by 14 bps over the last six months, with a yield curve showing signs of shifting towards a normal shape

Interest rate curve based on long-term bonds and historical development of the risk-free rate in Europe (Svensson Method)



^{1.} Note: Interest rate as of reference date using 3-month average yield curves in accordance with IDW S 1; 2. Note: Historical development of the risk-free rate is measured based on interest yield curve from 1y to 30y for each date.



Market returns and risk premium

a. Implied returns (ex-ante analysis)

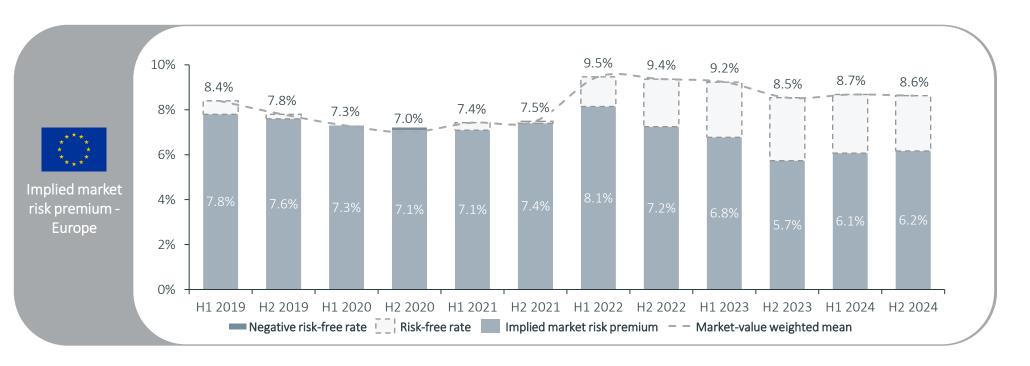
Despite a lower implied market return, the implied market risk premium increased by 0.1% due to the lower risk-free rate

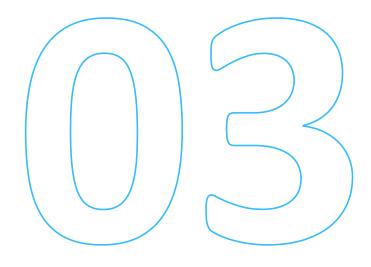
Implied market risk premium for Europe since 30 June 2019

Knowing the **implied market return** and the daily measured risk-free rate of the European capital market, we can determine the implied **market risk premium**.

In the years from June 2019 to December 2024 the **implied market returns** ranged from **7.0% to 9.5%**. Subtracting the risk-free rate from the implied market return, we derive a **market risk premium** within the range of **5.7% to 8.1%**.

The implied market return lies at 8.6% as of the reference date 31 December 2024. Taking the risk-free rate of 2.46% into account, we determine an implied market risk premium of 6.2%. To determine the appropriate market risk premium for valuation purposes, it is important to take also the analysis of historical returns as well as volatility (see p. 17) into account. Especially in times of crisis it can make sense to apply an average market risk premium over several periods instead of a reference date value.





Market returns and risk premium

b. Historical returns (ex-post analysis)

Over a 15-year investment period, the long-term historical return of the European stock market amounted to 8.3% (geometric mean) and 8.9% (arithmetic mean), respectively

Arithmetic and geometric mean of historical market returns as of 31 December 2024, over 15 years, 2009-24

In addition to the ex-ante analysis above, we also analyze **historical (ex-post) returns.** Historical returns over a **long-term observation period**, indicate an expected **return potential** of the European capital markets. The analysis of historical returns can be used for **plausibility checks of the cost of capital**, more specifically **return requirements**, which were evaluated through the CAPM.

To enable a precise analysis of the historical returns of the European capital market, we use the so-called **return triangle**. ¹⁾ It helps present the **annually realized returns** from **different investment periods** in a simple and understandable way. Especially the **different buying and selling points in time** and the different annual holding periods are illustrated comprehensively. To calculate the **average annual returns** over several years, we use both the **geometric and arithmetic mean**.

In this Study, we analyze the so-called **total shareholder returns**, which include the **returns on investments** and the **dividend yields**.

As only **total return indices** capture both return on investments and dividend yields, our analysis is based on the **STOXX Europe 600.** The relevant total return index for **Europe is called the STOXX Europe 600 Gross Return ("STOXX Europe 600 GR").**

The observation period is 15 years. All ex-post returns are calculated using the data as of the reference date 31 December 2024.

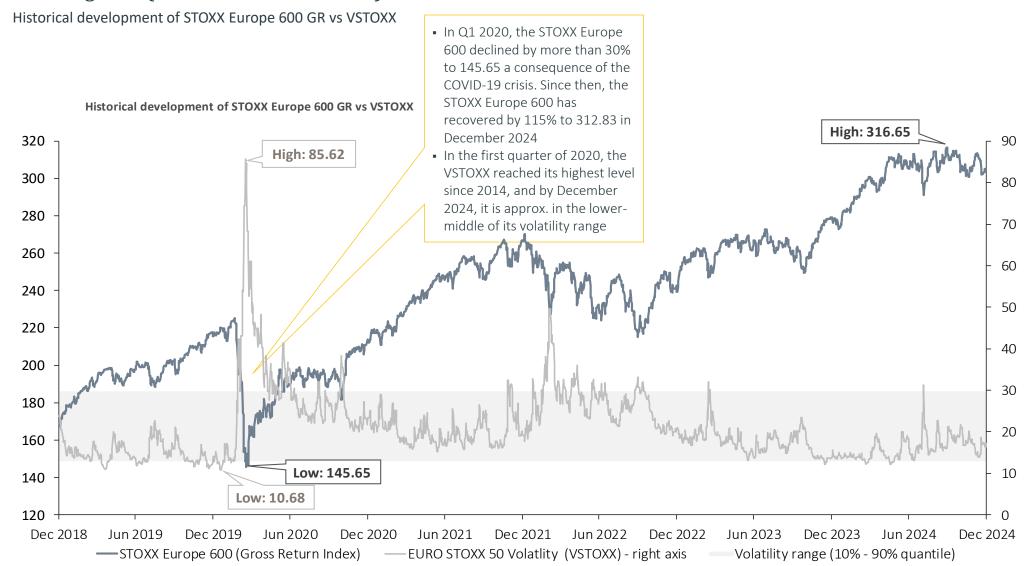
The following slide serves as an introduction by showing the historical development of the STOXX Europe 600 GR as of December 2018. Additionally, the EURO STOXX 50 Volatility ("VSTOXX") is displayed for the same period. The VSTOXX serves as an indicator for the stock market's expectations of volatility and can thus be used as a risk measure. The VSTOXX is often named the "fear index", higher levels are typically associated with more turbulent markets.

The following slides show the historical shareholder returns for different holding periods between 31 December 2009, and 31 December 2024, based on the arithmetic and geometric mean. For the longest **observation period** of **15 years** the average historical mean of the market return amounts to **8.9%**. Using geometrical averaging, we obtain a market return of **8.3%**.

Please note that the historical market return calculations are based on actual index data points, whereas the implied market return and all sector calculations are based on the LSEG Eikon Aggregates App. Therefore, the comparability can be impeded by different aggregation and composition methodologies.

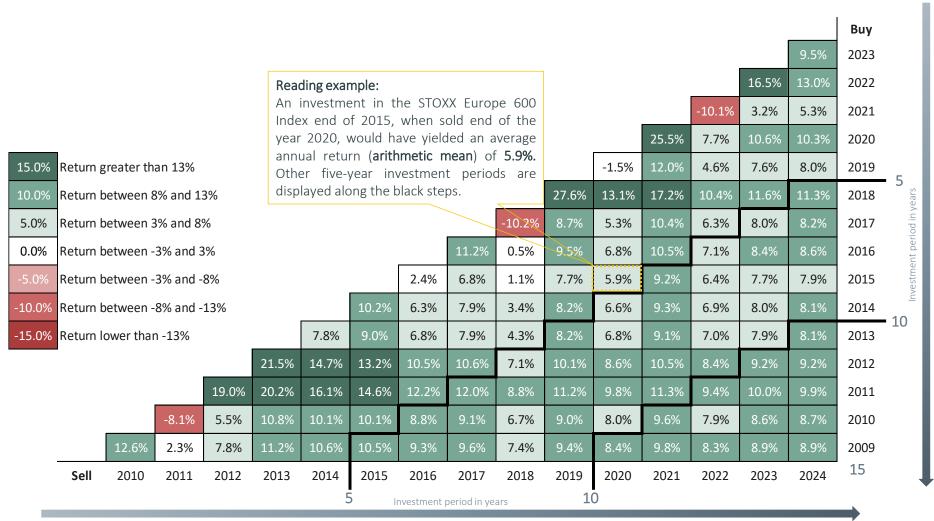
^{1.} The German Stock Institute e.V. (DAI) developed the return triangle for DAX and EURO STOXX.

Following the COVID-19 crisis, the STOXX Europe 600 saw significant growth, reaching a new all-time high in Q4 2024, while volatility declined



The strong performance of the STOXX Europe 600 over the past 12 months (9.5%) led to a significant increase in the arithmetic mean return of a 2021 investment, rising from 3.2% to 5.3%

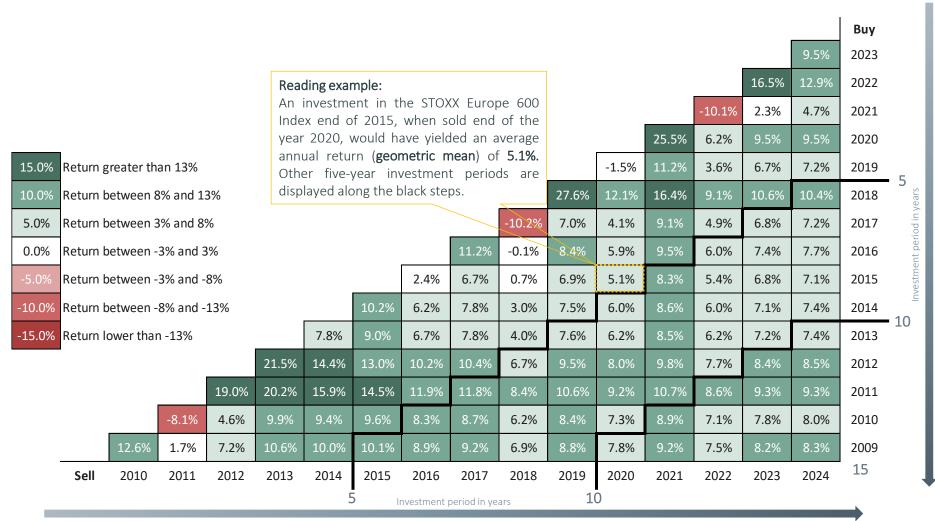
Arithmetic mean of historical market returns as of 31 December 2024, STOXX Europe 600 Performance Index, 2009-2024



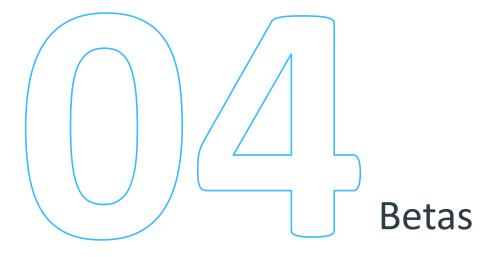
Source: https://www.dai.de/rendite-dreiecke/#undefined

The strong performance of the STOXX Europe 600 over the past 12 months (9.5%) boosted the geometric mean return of a 2021 investment by 2.4 percentage points, increasing it to 4.7%

Geometric mean of historical market returns as of 31 December 2024, STOXX Europe 600 Performance Index, 2009-2024



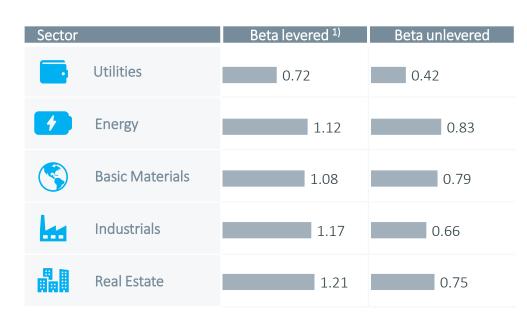
Source: https://www.dai.de/rendite-dreiecke/#undefined



The Energy sector exhibits the highest unlevered beta, reflecting its strong sensitivity to economic cycles and persistent geopolitical uncertainties

Levered and unlevered beta factors by sector as of 31 December 2024 (5-years monthly)

Sector	-	Beta levered ¹⁾	Beta unlevered
	Financials	1.21	n.a.
	Consumer Cyclicals	1.18	0.68
	Consumer Non- Cyclicals	0.67	0.45
W	Healthcare	0.77	0.55
	Technology	1.09	0.61



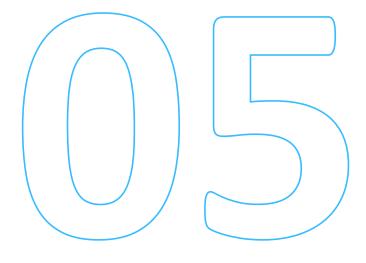
Sector specific debt ratio, leverage and rating

		Financials ²⁾	Consumer Cyclicals	Consumer Non-Cyclicals	Healthcare	Technology	Utilities	Energy	Basic Materials	Industrials	Real Estate
5-years 2019-2024 monthly	Debt ratio 3)	67.3%	50.2%	49.4%	38.4%	52.1%	60.3%	37.8%	33.8%	52.2%	46.1%
	Leverage	206.0%	100.8%	97.5%	62.5%	108.8%	151.7%	60.7%	51.1%	109.3%	85.7%
	Rating	BBB+	BBB+	BBB-	BBB	BBB+	BBB-	BB-	BBB-	BBB	BBB-

The levered beta of the market does empirically not necessarily exactly amount to 1.00 due to the exclusion of statistically insignificant betas. We observe a levered beta for the market of 1.00.

^{2.} The debt illustration of the companies of the Financials sector only serves informational purposes. We will not implement an adjustment to the company's specific debt (unlevered) because a bank's indebtedness is part of its operational activities and economic risk. Therefore, a separation of operational and financial obligations is not possible. In addition, bank specific regulations about the minimum capital within financial institutions let us assume that the indebtedness degree is widely comparable. For that reason, it is possible to renounce the adaptation of levered betas.

^{3.} The debt ratio corresponds to the debt-to-total capital ratio.



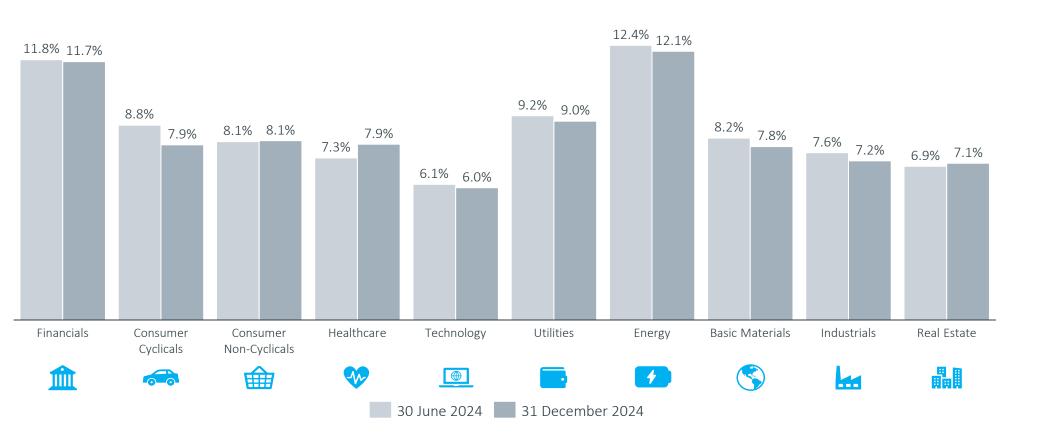
Sector returns

a. Implied returns (ex-ante analysis)

SECTOR RETURNS: IMPLIED RETURNS

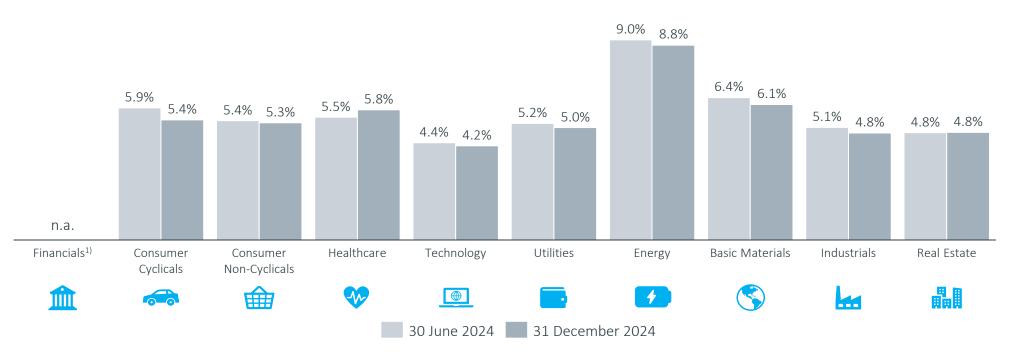
Implied levered returns decreased across most sectors, while Real Estate and Healthcare recorded the largest gains of 0.6%-points, primarily driven by lower stock prices

Implied levered returns by sector, 31 December 2024, vs. 30 June 2024



The implied unlevered returns remained largely stable over the past six months, with the Healthcare sector being the only one to exhibit an increase due to lower valuations

Implied unlevered returns by sector, 31 December 2024, vs. 30 June 2024



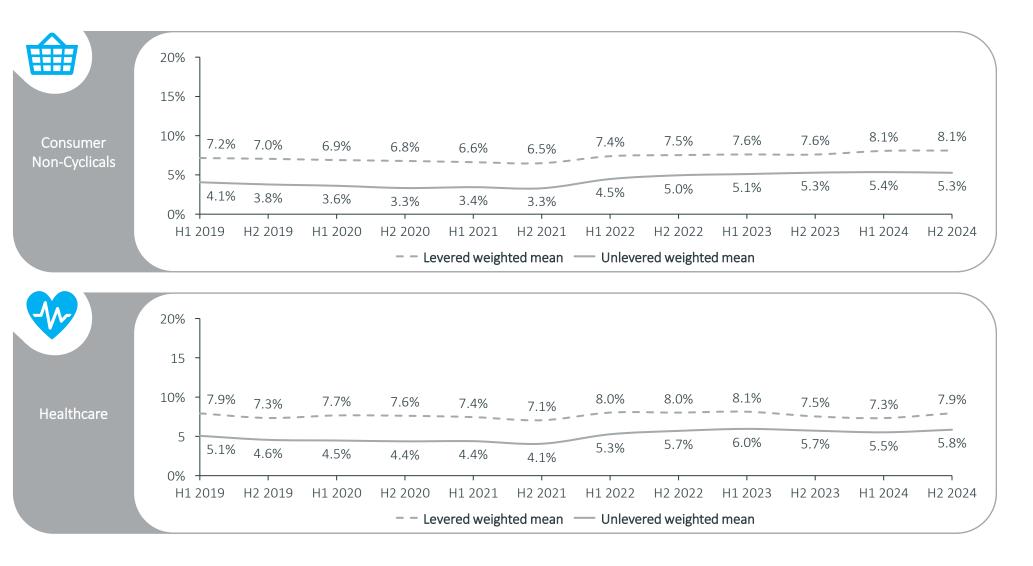
^{1.} No unlevered returns are reported for the Financial sector, as debt is part of operating activities.

SECTOR RETURNS: IMPLIED RETURNS

Earnings estimates for Consumer Cyclicals fell faster than stock prices, lowering implied returns, while Financials' implied returns remain steady due to high, albeit slightly declining, interest rates



Implied returns for Consumer Non-Cyclicals stayed stable with steady stock prices and earnings estimates, while Healthcare rose on higher earnings estimates amid declining stock prices



Implied returns for the Technology and Utilities sectors saw a modest decline, reflecting the ECB's gradual shift toward looser monetary policy

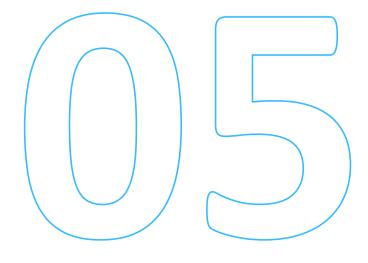


Despite a decrease in market capitalization, the Energy and Basic Materials sectors continue to exhibit declining implied returns due to weak earnings estimates, driven by low demand



Industrials implied levered returns as stock prices outperformed optimistic earnings, while Real Estate's implied returns rose on higher earnings estimates while stock prices stagnated





Sector returns

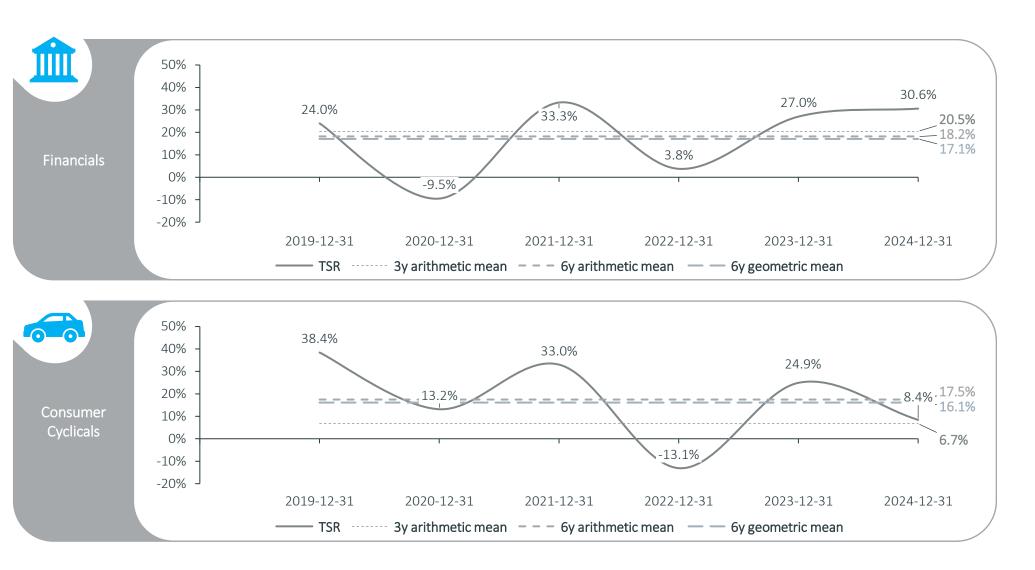
b. Historical returns (ex-post analysis)

While the 3-year average is lower than the 6-year average except for Financials and Energy, this reflects global tensions and the strong post-COVID rebound included in the 6-year period

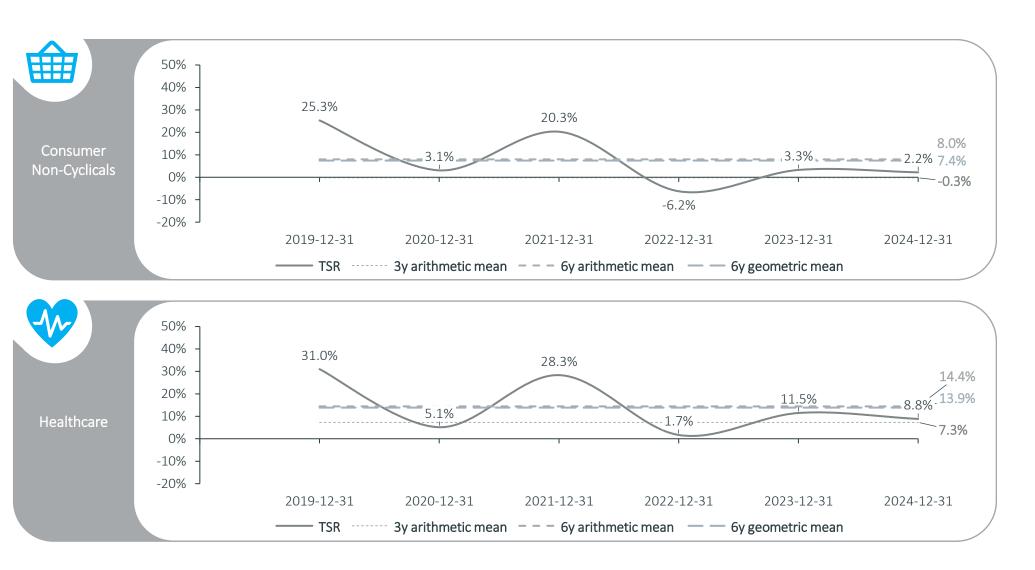
Three- and six-year-average historical sector returns as of 31 December 2024



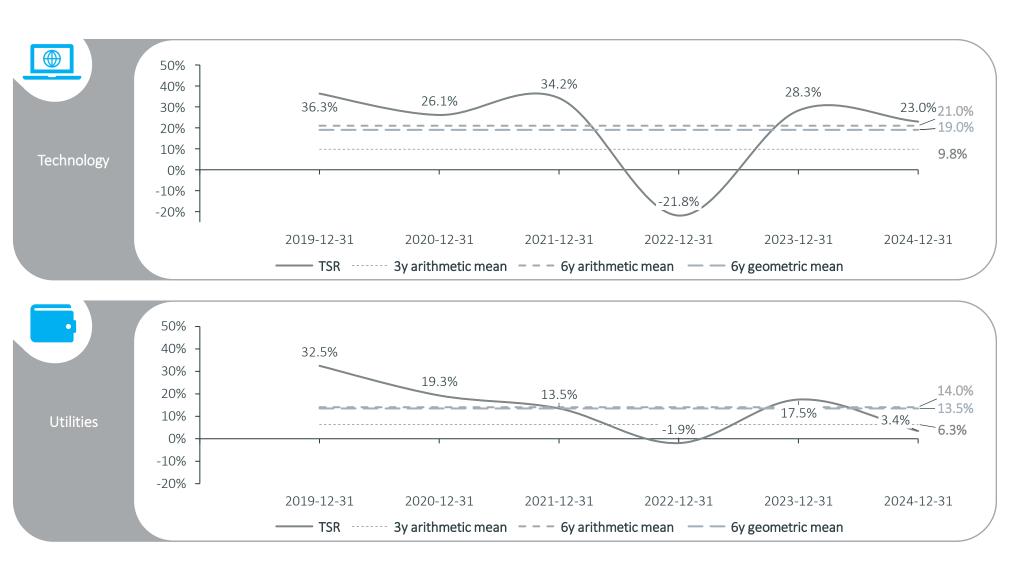
The Financials sector continued to benefit from high interest rates, whereas the Consumer Cyclicals sector fell short of last year's performance due to persistent inflation and low consumer spending



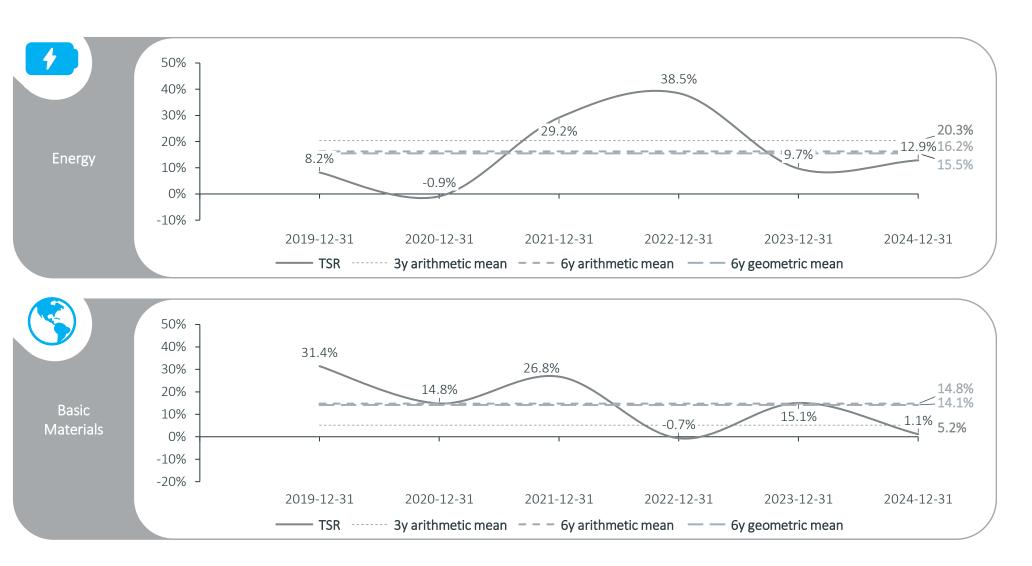
Inflation and low consumer spending have also weighed on earnings and stock prices in the Consumer Non-Cyclicals and Healthcare sectors, driving returns below the 6-year average



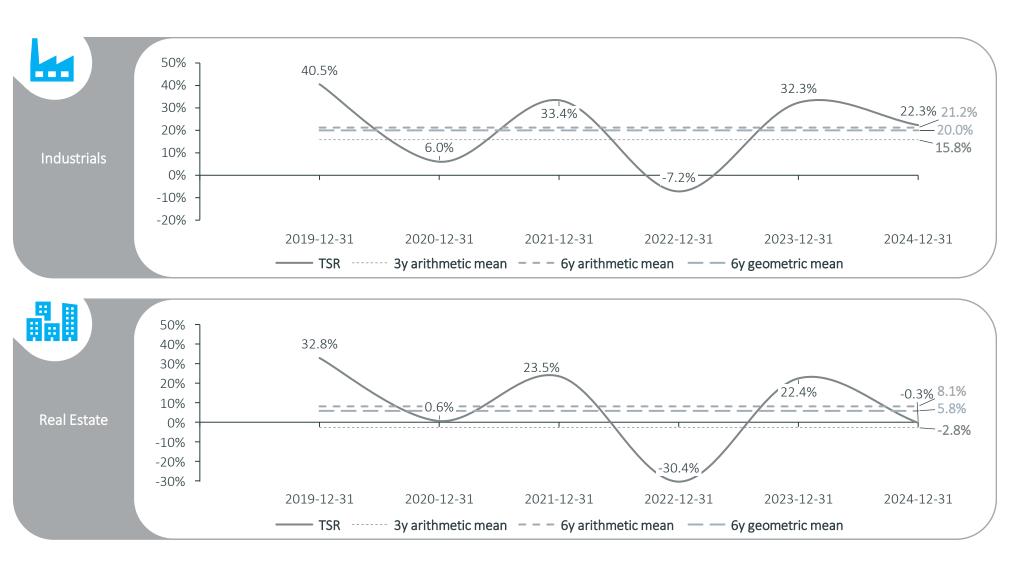
The Technology sector posted above-average returns due to stable valuations and strong revenue growth, while the Utilities sector underperformed due to high energy prices and stagnant demand

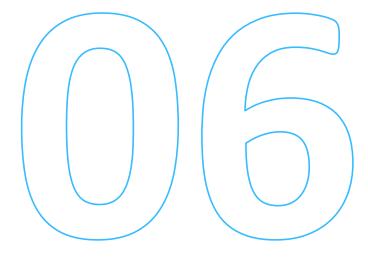


The Energy sector benefited from high prices but faced low demand and weakening stock prices, while the Basic Materials sector struggled with high costs and low demand



Industrials returns reverted to the mean yet stayed above average due to revenue growth and improved margins, while Real Estate posted low returns due to higher for longer interest rates



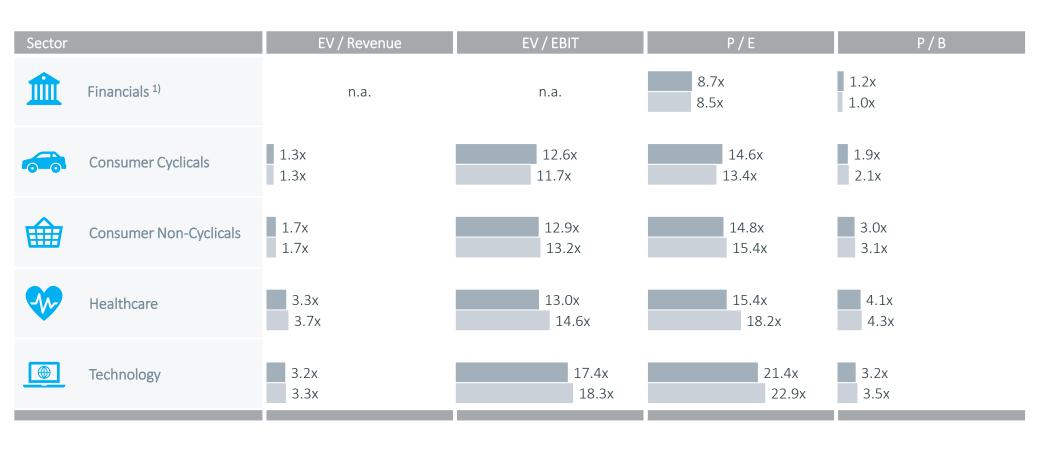


Trading multiples

TRADING MULTIPLES

Consumer Cyclicals valuations improved as earnings estimates weakened relative to stock prices, whereas Healthcare valuations declined as stock prices decreased relative to earnings estimates

Median forward multiples by sector, 31 December 2024, and 30 June 2024



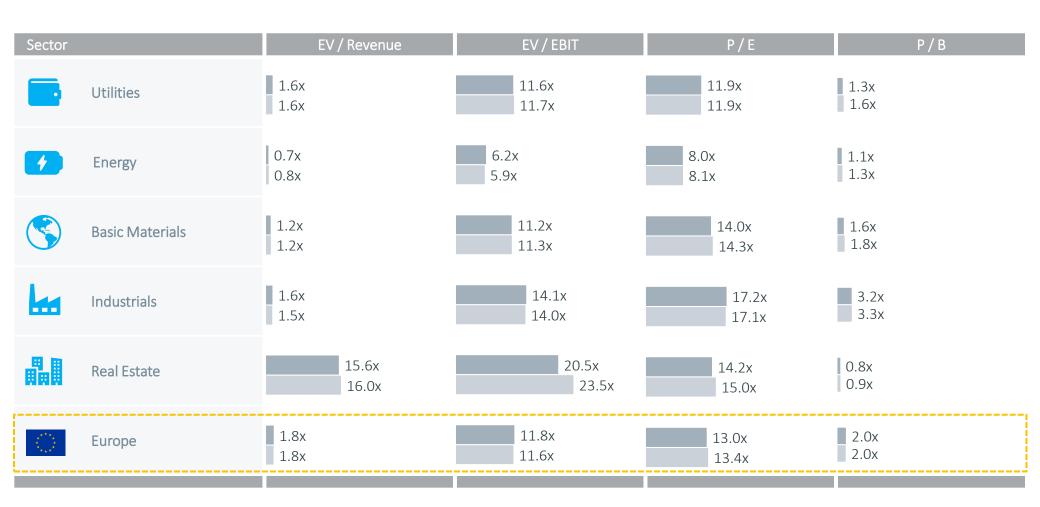
31 December 2024 30 June 2024

^{1.} For companies in the Financials sector, Revenue- and EBIT-Multiples are not meaningful and thus are not reported.

TRADING MULTIPLES

Optimistic earnings projections and robust growth potential contributed to an increase in Industrials valuation multiples

Median forward multiples by sector, 31 December 2024, and 30 June 2024



31 December 2024 30 June 2024

TRADING MULTIPLES

Technology ranks highest due to innovation-driven growth potential, while Energy ranks lowest, reflecting its strong correlation with prevailing economic weakness

Sector multiples ranking based on median, 1yf as of 31 December 2024

	EV/Revenue 1yf	EV/EBIT 1yf	P/E 1yf	P/B LTM	Ø Ranking
Financials	n.a.	n.a.	9	8	8.5
Consumer Cyclicals	7	6	5	5	6.4
Consumer Non-Cyclicals	4	5	4	4	4.9
W Healthcare	2	4	3	1	2.6
Technology	3	2	1	3	2.1
Utilities	5	7	8	7	6.6
# Energy	9	9	10	9	9.1
Basic Materials	8	8	7	6	6.9
Industrials	6	3	2	2	3.6
Real Estate	1	1	6	10	3.3

The Technology sector has the highest valuation level of all sectors

The P/B multiple of the Utilities sector ranks 7th highest in a sector comparison. Overall, the average ranking of the Utilities sector is 6.6, indicating a medium valuation level.

^{1.} Multiples are ranked from highest to lowest values: 1 – highest (dark green), 9/10 – lowest (red).

Appendix Background and approaches

Government bonds of European countries with AAA-rating (Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) are used to derive risk-free rates for Europe

Risk-free rate

The **risk-free rate** is a return available on a security that the market generally regards as free from risk of default. It serves as an input parameter for the **CAPM** in order to determine the risk-adequate cost of capital.

The risk-free rate is a yield which is obtained from long-term government bonds of European countries with top-notch ratings. As of the reference date, the AAA-rated countries in the Eurozone included Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The European Central Bank (ECB) publishes — on a daily basis — the parameters needed to determine the yield curve using the Svensson method. ¹⁾ By using interest rate data from different maturities, a yield curve can be estimated for fictitious zero-coupon bonds (spot rates) for a period of up to 30 years. Based on the respective yield curve, a uniform risk-free rate is derived under the assumption of present value equivalence to an infinite time horizon.

To compute the risk-free rate for a specific reference date we used an average value of the daily yield curves of the **past three months.** This method **avoids a misleading semblance of precision** and is recognized in court proceedings.²⁾

^{1.} European Central Bank

⁽https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/financial_markets_and_interest_rates/euro_area_yield_curves/html/index.en.html)

^{2.} The Institute of Public Auditors (Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer, IDW) in Germany also recommends this approach.

The concept of implied cost of capital recently gained momentum

Market returns and market risk premium: Implied returns

The **future-oriented** computation of **implied market returns** and **market risk premiums** is based on profit estimates for public companies and return calculations. This approach is called ex-ante analysis and allows us to calculate the "**implied cost of capital**".

The **ex-ante method** offers an **alternative** to the **ex-post approach** of calculating the cost of capital by means of a regression analysis through the **CAPM**. The exante analysis method seeks cost of capital which represent the **return expectations of market participants**. The approach assumes that the estimates of financial analysts reflect the expectations of the capital market.

The concept of **implied cost of capital** recently gained momentum. For example, when it was recognized by the German *Fachausschuss für Unternehmensbewertung* "FAUB".¹⁾ It is acknowledged that implied cost of capital capture the **current capital market situation** and are thus able to reflect the effects of the **current interest rate environment**.

Furthermore, recent **court rulings** with regards to appraisal proceedings appreciate the forward-looking nature of **implied cost of capital**. As of the **reference date**, it offers a more insightful perspective compared to the exclusive use of ex-post data.

In the analysis, we use – a simplified annual formula – the formula of the Residual Income Valuation Model by *Babbel*:²⁾

$$r_{t} = \frac{NI_{t+1}}{MC_{t}} + \left(1 - \frac{BV_{t}}{MC_{t}}\right) * g$$

- cf. Castedello/Jonas/Schieszl/Lenckner, Die Marktrisikoprämie im Niedrigzinsumfeld Hintergrund und Erläuterung der Empfehlung des FAUB (WPg, 13/2018, p. 806-825).
- 2. cf. Babbel, Challenging Stock Prices: Share prices and implied growth expectations (Corporate Finance, n. 9, 2015, p. 316-323, especially p. 319).
- 3. Analyst consensus forecasts for the next twelve months are applied.

With the following parameter definitions:

 r_t = Cost of equity at time t

 NI_{t+1} = Expected net income in the following time period t+1³⁾

 MC_t = Market capitalization at time t

 BV_t = Book value of equity at time t

g = Projected growth rate

By solving the model for the cost of capital, we obtain the implied return on equity.⁴⁾ Since *Babbel's* model does not need any explicit assumptions except for the growth rate it turns out to be **robust**. We source all data (i.e. expected annual net income, market capitalization, and book value of equity, etc.) of the analyzed companies from the data supplier LSEG. As a typified growth rate, we apply the European Central Bank target inflation rate of **2.0% as a typified growth rate**.

We determine the **implied market returns** for the STOXX Europe 600. We consider this index as a valid approximation for the European market. Subtracting the risk-free rate from the implied market returns results in the implied market risk premium.

To determine the appropriate market risk premium for valuation purposes, it is also important to take into account historical returns and volatility. Especially in times of crisis it may make sense to apply an average market risk premium over several periods instead of a reference date value.

 cf. Reese, 2007, Estimation of the cost of capital for evaluation purposes; Aders/Aschauer/Dollinger, Die implizite Marktrisikoprämie am österreichischen Kapitalmarkt (RWZ, 6/2016, p. 195 – 202);
 ValueTrust, DACH Capital Market Study 31 December 2024.

Betas are calculated based on regressions and adjusted to take the capital structure into account

Beta is used in the CAPM and also referred to as beta coefficient or beta factor. Beta is a measure of systematic risk of a security of a specific company (company beta) or a specific sector (sector beta) in comparison to the market. A beta of less than 1 means that the security is theoretically less volatile than the market. A beta of greater than 1 indicates that the security's price is more volatile than the market.

Beta factors are estimated based on historical returns of securities in comparison to an approximate market portfolio. Since a company valuation is forward-looking, it has to be examined which risk factors from the past also apply to the future, and to which extent. In valuing non-listed companies or companies without meaningful share price performance, it is common practice to use a beta factor from a group of comparable companies ("peer group beta"), a suitable sector ("sector beta") or one single listed company in the capital market with a similar business model and similar risk profile ("pure play beta"). Within this Capital Market Study, we have used sector betas which are computed as arithmetic means of the statistically significant beta factors of all companies of a particular sector.

The calculation of beta factors is usually accomplished through a **linear** regression analysis.

It is important to set a time period over which the data is collected (benchmark period), and whether daily, weekly or monthly returns (return interval) are analyzed. In practice, it is common to use observation periods of two years with the regression of weekly returns or five years with the regression of monthly returns.

In the CAPM, company specific **risk premiums** include **business** risk, and financial **risk**. The beta factor of levered companies ("**levered beta**") is usually higher compared to a company with an identical business model but without debt (due to financial risk). Hence, **changes in the capital structure** require an **adjustment of the betas** and therefore of the company specific risk premiums.

Various adjustment formulas are available to calculate the **unlevered beta**. We prefer to use the **adjustment formula by Harris/Pringle** which assumes a value-based financing policy, stock-flow adjustments without time delay, uncertain tax shields and a so-called **debt beta**. We calculate the debt beta based on the respective company's rating or the average sector rating (if a company's rating is not available) through the application of the **credit spread** derived from the expected cost of debt. We do not adjust the credit spread for unsystematic risks. Capital market data, in particular historical market prices, is provided by the data supplier LSEG Eikon and its Aggregates App. Due to data availability, we only apply the five-year observation period.

Implied sector returns simplify the calculation of the levered cost of equity

Sector returns: Implied returns

Besides the future-oriented calculation of **implied market returns**, we also calculate implied returns for sectors. This offers an alternative to and a simplification of the ex-post analysis of the subject company's cost of capital via the CAPM. Using this approach, the calculation of sector betas via regression analyses are not necessary.

The **implied sector returns** can be used as an **indicator** for the **sector specific** levered cost of equity, which already consider sector specific leverage.

The following return calculations are again based on the Residual Income Valuation Model by Babbel. 1) The required data (i.e. net income, market capitalization, and book value of equity) are sourced from the data provider LSEG. With regards to profit growth, we assume a growth rate of 2.0%.

We unlever the implied returns with the following equation for the cost of equity²⁾ to take into account the specific leverage³⁾:

$$r_{E}^{L} = r_{E}^{U} + \left(r_{E}^{U} - R_{f}\right) * \frac{D}{E}$$

with:

 $r_{\rm E}^{
m L}$ = Levered cost of equity $r_{\rm E}^{
m U}$ = Unlevered cost of equity

 R_f = Risk-free rate

= Debt 4) -to-equity ratio

The implied unlevered sector returns serve as an indicator for the aggregated and unlevered cost of equity for specific sectors. The process of relevering a company's cost of capital to reflect a company specific debt situation (cf. calculation example on the next slide) can be accomplished without using the CAPM.

^{1.} cf. Babbel, Challenging Stock Prices: Share prices and implied growth expectations (Corporate Finance, n. 9, 2015, p. 316-323, especially p. 319); cf. Aders/Aschauer/Dollinger, Die implizite Marktrisikoprämie am österreichischen Kapitalmarkt (RWZ, 6/2016, p. 195-202).

^{2.} In situations in which the debt betas in the market are distorted, we would have to adjust these betas to avoid unsystematic risks. For simplification reasons, we deviate from our typical analysis strategy to achieve the enterprise value (Debt beta > 0) and assume that the cost of debt are at the level of the risk-free rate. This process is designed by the so-called Practitioners formula (uncertain tax shields, debt beta = 0), cf. Pratt/Grabowski, Cost of Capital, 5th ed., 2014, p. 253.

^{3.} We assume that the cash and cash equivalents are used entirely for operational purposes. Consequently, we do not deduct excess cash from the debt.

^{4. &}quot;Debt" is defined as all interest-bearing liabilities. The debt illustration of the companies in the Financials sector only serves an informational purpose. We will not implement an adjustment to these companies' specific debt (unlevered) because their indebtedness is part of their operational activities and economic risk.

An exemplary calculation of relevered cost of equity to adjust for the company specific capital structure

Sector returns: Implied returns

Calculation example:

As of the reference date 31 December 2024, we observe the sector specific, levered cost of equity of **7.8%** (market-value weighted mean) in the European Basic Materials sector. Taking the sector-specific leverage into account, we derive an unlevered cost of equity of **6.1%**. For the exemplary company X, which operates in the European Basic Materials sector, the following assumptions were made:

■ Debt-to-equity ratio of X: 40%

Risk-free rate: 2.46%

Based on these inputs, we can calculate the relevered cost of equity for company X with the adjustment formula:

$$\mathbf{r}_{E}^{L} = 6.1\% + (6.1\% - 2.46\%) * 40\% = 7.56\%$$

7.56% is the company's relevered cost of equity. In comparison, the levered cost of equity of the Basic Materials sector is **7.8%**, reflecting the sectors' higher average leverage.

Historical sector returns are calculated using market-weighted aggregated sector indices

Sector returns: Historical returns

In addition to historical market returns, we calculate historical sector returns. Our analysis contains total shareholder returns including share price development and the dividend yield.

We calculate **total annual shareholder returns as of 31 December** for every market-value weighted sector index of STOXX Europe 600. Our calculations comprise the time period between 2019 and 2024.

Since total annual shareholder returns tend to fluctuate to a great extent, their explanatory power is limited. Therefore, we do not only calculate the 1-year market-value weighted means, but 3-year (2022-24) as well as the 6-year (2019-24) averages.

The multiples approach can be used for company valuation

Trading multiples

Besides income-based valuation models (earnings value, DCF), the **multiples approach** offers a practical approach for an enterprise value estimation. The multiples method estimates a subject company's value **relative** to another company's value. The enterprise value is derived by multiplying a reference value (revenue or earnings values are frequently used) of the company by the respective multiples of **comparable companies**.

Within this Study, we calculate the following multiples for the sectors indices as well as for the European market:

- Revenue-Multiples ("EV1)/Revenue")
- EBIT-Multiples ("EV1)/EBIT")
- Price-to-Earnings-Multiples ("P/E")
- Price-to-Book Value-Multiples ("P/B")

Multiples are presented for the reference dates 31 December 2024 and 30 June 2024. The reference values are based on one-year forecasts of analysts (so called forward multiples, "1yf"). Solely the Price-to-Book Value-Multiples are calculated with book values as of the reference dates. We present median values.

We present historical multiples starting as of 31 December 2018 in the appendix and update the applied multiples semi-annually at the predefined reference date (as of 31 December and as of 30 June).

For the purpose of **simplification**, we exclude negative multiples and multiples in the highest quantile (95%). The multiples in the lowest quantile (5%) build the lower limit.

We source the data (i.e. market capitalization, revenue, EBIT, etc.) from the data provider LSEG Eikon. Based on the availability of data, especially in terms of forecasts, the number of companies underlying each specific multiple varies.

Additionally, we present a **ranking table** of the sector multiples. Sector multiples are sorted from highest to lowest for each analyzed multiple. The resulting score in the ranking is displayed in the table and visualized by a color code that assigns a dark **green color** to the **highest rank** and a **red color** to the **lowest rank**. Thus, a green colored high rank indicates a high valuation level, whereas a red colored low rank suggests a low valuation level. We then aggregate the rankings and calculate an average of all single rankings for each sector multiple. This is shown in the right column of the ranking table. This **average ranking** indicates the overall **relative valuation levels** of the sectors when using multiples.

Appendix

Composition of the sectors as of 31 December 2024

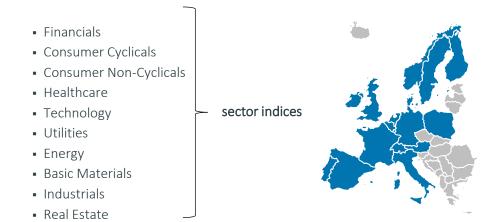
The selected European capital market index includes 600 publicly listed companies, which are distributed across ten distinct sector indices

Sector indices for Europe



The sector indices aim to cover the **entire capital market of Europe**. Therefore, this Study contains all equities of the **STOXX Europe 600** as listed in the LSEG Eikon Aggregates App.¹⁾ The STOXX Europe 600 Index represents large, mid and small capitalization companies across **17 countries of the European region**: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The ten sector indices for this Study are:

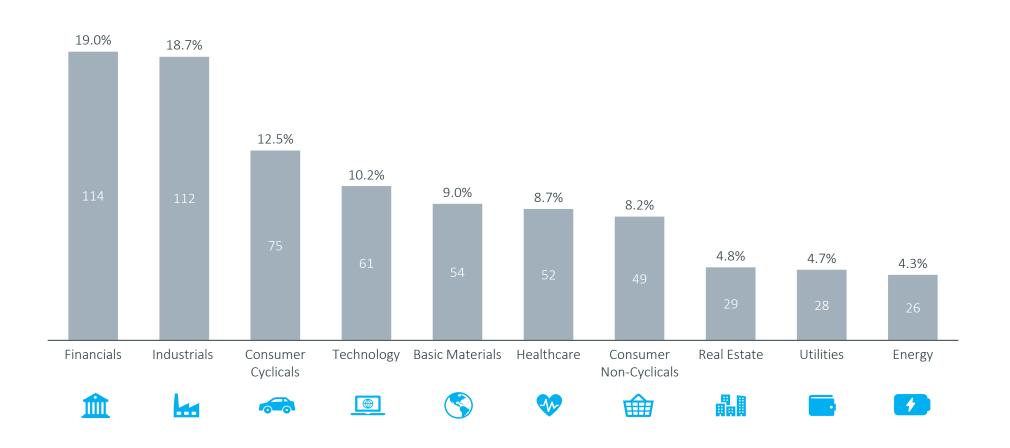


Classifies European market into 10 sector indices

1. The LSEG Eikon Aggregates App offers analyst forecasts and historical values of key financials on an aggregated sector level

The Industrials, Financials, and Consumer Cyclicals sectors together account for approximately half of the European companies included in the STOXX Europe 600

Sector indices of STOXX Europe 600 as of 31 December 2024 (Number and percentage distribution of the 600 companies)



Financials

Europe Capital Market Study

Financials

31 GROUP PLC.

ABN AMRO BANK NV

ABRDN PLC.

ADMIRAL GROUP PLC.

AEGON LTD.
AGEAS SA
AIB GROUP PLC.
ALLIANZ SE

ASR NEDERLAND

ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI AVANZA BANK HOLDING AB

AVAIVEA BAINK HOLDING

AVIVA PLC. AXA

AMUNDI

AZIMUT HOLDING SPA BALOISE HOLDING AG

BANCA GENERALI

BANCA MEDIOLANUM SPA BANCA MONTE DEI PASCHI

BANCO DE SABADELL SA BANCO POPOLARE

BANCO SANTANDER SA BANK OF IRELAND

BANK PKA.KASA OPIEKI SA

BANKINTER SA BANQUE CANTON.VE. BARCI AYS PLC

BAWAG PSK BK.AG BBV.ARGT.SA

BNC.COMFRCIAL PORTUGUES

BNP PARIBAS BPE.DSNDRO.SPA BPER BANCA

BEAZLEY PLC.

BRIDGEPOINT GROUP WI

Source: LSEG

CAIXABANK SA

CEMBRA MONEY BANK N ORD

COMMERZBANK AG
CREDIT AGRICOLE SA
CVC CAPNS.PLC.
DANSKE BANK A/S
DEUTSCHE BANK AG
DEUTSCHE BOERSE AG
DIRECT LINE IN.GP.PLC.

DNB ASA EQT AB

ERSTE GROUP BANK AG

EURAZEO SE
EURONEXT
FINECOBANK SPA
GJDG.FORSIKRING ASA
GROEP BRUSSEL LAMBERT NV
HANNOVER RUCK.AG

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN PLC.

HELVETIA HOLDING AG
HISCOX DI LTD.
HSBC HOLDINGS PLC.
IG GROUP HOLDINGS PLC.

ING GROEP

INTERMEDIATE CAP.GP.PLC.

INTESA SANPAOLO

INDUSTRIVARDEN AB

INVESTMENT AB LATOUR

INVESTOR AB

JULIUS BAFR GRUPPF AG

JYSKE BANK AS KBC GROEP NV KINNEVIK 'B'

LEGAL & GENERAL GP.PLC.

LLOYDS BANKING GP.PLC. LONDON STOCK EX.GP.PLC. LUNDBERGEORETAGEN AB

M&G PLC. MAN GROUP PLC.

MEDIOBANCA BC.FIN SA MUNCH.RUECKVERSICHERUNGS

NATWEST GROUP PLC.

NN GROUP NORDEA BANK AB NORDNET AB

PARTNERS GROUP HOLDING

PHNX.GHG.PLC. PKO BANK SA PRUDENTIAL PLC. PZU GROUP SA

RAIFFEISEN BANK INTL.AG RINGKJOBING LANDBOBANK

SAMPO OYJ

SANTANDER BANK POLSKA SA

SCHRODERS PLC. SCOR SE SEB 'A' SA

SOCIETE GENERALE SA

SOFINA SA

SPB.1 SOR-NORGE ASA ST JAMES S PLACE PLC. STD.CHARTERED PLC. STOREBRAND ASA

SVENSKA HANDBKN.'A' PLC.

SWEDBANK AB

SWISS LIFE HOLDING AG

SWISS RE AG

SWISSQUOTE GP.HLDG.LTD.

SYDBANK A/S

TALANX AKTGSF.
TP ICAP GROUP PLC.

TRYG A/S UBS GROUP UNICREDIT

UNIPOL ASSICURAZIONI SPA

VZ HOLDING AG WENDEL

ZURICH INSURANCE GP.AG

Consumer Cyclicals and Consumer Non-Cyclicals (1/2)

Europe Capital Market Study

Consumer Cyclicals

ACCOR
ADIDAS AG
ALLEGRO EU SA
ASSA ABLOY AB
AVOLTA AG

B&M EUR.VAL.RET.PLC. BARRATT REDROW PLC. BAYER.MOTOREN WKE. AG

BELLWAY PLC.

BERKELEY GROUP HDG.PLC.

BOLLORE SE

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI SPA BURBERRY GROUP PLC.

CANAL+ SA
CARNIVAL PLC.
CHRISTIAN DIOR SA
CMPG.DES ETS.MICH.SCA
COMPASS GROUP PLC.
CONTINENTAL AG
D IETEREN GROUP SA
DR ING HC F PORSCHE AG

ELECTROLUX AB ENTAIN PLC. EVOLUTION AB FERRARI NV

GAMES WORKSHOP GP.PLC.

GEBERIT AG

GRAFTON GROUP UTS.PLC.

GREGGS PLC.

H&M HENNES & MAURITZ AB HERMES INTERNATIONAL HOWDEN JOINERY GP.PLC.

HUSQVARNA AB

ICTL.HOTELS GROUP PLC.
INCHCAPE PLC.

Source: LSEG

INDITEX SA ITV PLC.

JD SPORTS FASHION PLC.

KERING SA
KINGFISHER PLC.
KINGSPAN GROUP PLC.
LA FRANCAISE DES JEUX SA

LPP SA LVMH

MERCEDES-BENZ GROUP AG

MONCLER NEXT PLC.

OCADO GROUP PLC.
PANDORA A/S
PEARSON PLC.
PERSIMMON PLC.
PLAYTECH PLC.
PORSCHE AML.HLDG.SE
PUBLICIS GROUPE SA

PUIG BRANDS SA PUMA SE RATIONAL AG RENAULT SA RICHEMONT N SA SAINT GOBAIN

SAINT GOBAIN
SEB SA
SIGNIFY NV
SODEXO
STELLANTIS NV
SWATCH GROUP AG
TAYLOR WIMPEY PLC.
THULE GROUP
TRAVIS PERKINS PLC.

TUI AG

UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP NV

VALEO SE

VISTRY GROUP PLC. VOLKSWAGEN AG WHITBREAD PLC. WPP PLC.

Consumer Non-Cyclicals (1/2)

AARHUSKARLSHAMN AB ANHEUSER-BUSCH INBEV SA ASSOCIATED BRIT.FDS.PLC.

AXFOOD AB
BAKKAFROST ASA
BARRY CALLEBAUT AG
BEIERSDORF AG
BRITISH AMER.TOB.PLC.

BRITVIC PLC.
CARLSBERG AS
CARREFOUR SA

CHOC.LINDT & SPRUENGLI AG

COCA COLA HBC AG CRANSWICK PLC.

DANONE

DAVIDE CAMPARI MILANO NV

DCC PLC.
DIAGEO PLC.
DINO POLSKA SA
DSM FIRMENICH
ESSITY AB

GALDERMA GROUP AG

GLANBIA PLC.

HEINEKEN HOLDING PLC.

HEINEKEN NV

IMPERIAL BRANDS PLC.

JDE PEETS NV

JERONIMO MARTINS SA KERRY GROUP PLC.

KESKO OYJ

KON.AHOLD DLHZ.NV LAGERCRANTZ GROUP 'B' AB

LIFCO B L'OREAL

LOTUS BAKERIES NV

Consumer Non-Cyclicals (2/2) and Technology (1/2)

Europe Capital Market Study

Consumer Non-Cyclicals (2/2)

MARKS & SPENCER GP.PLC.

MOWI ASA NESTLE AG ORKLA ASA PERNOD-RICARD

RECKITT BENCKISER GP.PLC REDCARE PHARMACY NV ROYAL UNIBREW A/S

SAINSBURY J PLC.

SMITHS GROUP PLC.

TESCO PLC.

UNILEVER PLC.

SALMAR ASA

Healthcare

ALCON AG
ALK-ABELLO A/S
AMBU 'B'A/S
AMPLIFON SPA
ARGENX SE

ASTRAZENECA PLC.
BACHEM HOLDING AG

BAVARIAN NORDIC A/S

BAYER AG BIOMERIEUX SA

CARL ZEISS MEDITEC AG

COLOPLAST A/S

CONVATEC GROUP PLC.

DEMANT A/S DIASORIN ELEKTA AB

ESSILORLUXOTTICA SA EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC AG

FMC.AG
FRESENIUS
GALENICA SANTE
GENMAB A/S
GERRESHEIMER AG
GETINGE AB
GRIFOLS SA

GRIFOLS GSK PLC. HALEON

HIKMA PHARMS.PLC.

IPSEN SA

KON.PHILIPS ELTN.NA LONZA GROUP AG MERCK KGAA NOVARTIS AG NOVO NORDISK A/S

ORION OYJ

QIAGEN NV

RECORDATI INDUA.CHIMICA

ROCHE HOLDING AG SANDOZ GROUP AG

SANOFI

SARTORIUS AG

SARTORIUS STEDIM BIOTECH

SECTRA AB

SIEGFRIED HOLDING AG SIEMENS HEALTHINEERS

SMITH & NEPHEW PLC. SONOVA HOLDING AG

STRAUMANN HOLDING AG SWED.ORPHAN BIOVITRUM AB

TUBIZE FINANCIERE SA

UCB SA

ZEALAND PHARMA AS

Technology (1/2)

ADYEN NV

ALLFUNDS GROUP PLC.

ALTEN

AMADEUS IT GROUP ASM INTERNATIONAL ASML HOLDING NV

AUTO TRADER GROUP PLC.

BE SEMICONDUCTOR INDS.

BECHTLE AG BT GROUP PLC.

CAPGEMINI SE

CD PROJECT RED SA

CELLNEX TELECOM
COMET HOLDING AG

COMPUTACENTER PLC.

CTS EVENTIM AG

DASSAULT SYSTEMES SE

DELIVERY HERO AG.

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM AG

ELISA OYJ FORTNOX AB FREENET AG

GN STORE NORD A/S

HALMA PLC.

HEMNET GROUP AB

HEXAGON AB

INFINEON TECHNOLOGIES AG INFRASTRUTTURE WIRELESS

JUST EAT TAKEAWAY COM NV KONINKLIJKE KPN NV

LOGITECH INTL.SA
MILLICOM INTL.CELU.SA

MYCRONIC AB
NEMETSCHEK AG
NOKIA OYJ

Technology (2/2), Utilities, Energy, and Basic Materials (1/2)

Europe Capital Market Study

Technology (2/2)

ORANGE SA
PROSUS NV
RELX PLC.
REPLY SPA
RIGHTMOVE PLC.
RS GROUP PLC.
SAP AG
SCOUT24 SE
SOFTCAT PLC.
SOITEC

SOPRA STERIA GROUP SPECTRIS PLC.

STMICROELECTRONICS NV

SWISSCOM
TECAN GROUP AG
TELAB.LM ERIC.
TELE2 AB
TELECOM ITALIA

TELEFONICA SA
TELENOR ASA
TELIA COMPANY AB
TEMENOS AG

THE SAGE GROUP PLC. TIETOEVRY OYJ

VODAFONE GROUP PLC.

ZALANDO

Utilities A2A SPA BKW

CENTRICA PLC. DRAX GROUP PLC.

E ON SE

EDP RENOVAVEIS

EDP SA
ELIA GROUP SA
ENDESA SA
ENEL SPA
ENGIE
FORTUM OYJ
HERA SPA
IBERDROLA SA
ITALGAS

NATIONAL GRID PLC.

NATURGY ENERGY GROUP SA

NEOEN SA
OERSTED A/S
PENNON GROUP PLC.
REDEIA CORPORACION SA

RWE AG.

SEVERN TRENT PLC.

SSE PLC.

TERNA RETE ELETTRICA NAZ UNITED UTILITIES GP.PLC. VEOLIA ENVIRONNEMENT

VERBUND AG

Energy

AKER BP ASA BP PLC. ENAGAS SA ENI

EQUINOR ASA FRONTLINE PLC.

FUGRO C DUTCH CERT NV GALP ENERGIA SGPS

GTT

KONINKLIJKE VOPAK NV

NESTE
OMV AG
ORLEN SA
REPSOL YPF SA
RUBIS
SAIPEM
SHELL PLC

SIEMENS ENERGY AG

SNAM SPA SUBSEA 7 SA

TECHNIP ENERGIES NV

TENARIS SA TOTALENERGIES SE VALLOUREC VAR ENERGI ASA

VESTAS WINDSYSTEMS A/S

Basic Materials (1/2)

AKZO NOBEL NV
ANGLO AMERICAN PLC.
ANTOFAGASTA PLC.
ARCELORMITTAL
ARKEMA
AURUBIS AG
BASF SE

BOLIDEN AB
BRENNTAG SE
BUZZI SPA
CLARIANT AG
COVESTRO AG

CRODA INTERNATIONAL PLC. EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG EVONIK INDUSTRIES AG FLSMIDTH & CO.'B' A/S

FUCHS SE GIVAUDAN SA GLENCORE PLC

HEIDELBERG MATERIALS AG HENKEL PREFERENCE AG.

HEXPOL AB
HOLCIM AG
HOLMEN AB
HUHTAMAKI OYJ
IMCD GROUP

JOHNSON MATTHEY PLC.

K+S AG KEMIRA OYJ

KGHM POLSKA MIEDZ SA L AIR LQE.SC.ANYME.POUR

LANXESS AG MONDI PLC. NORSK HYDRO ASA NOVOZYMES

Source: LSEG

Basic Materials (2/2) and Industrials (1/2)

Europe Capital Market Study

Basic Materials (2/2)

RIO TINTO PLC. ROCKWOOL A/S SANDVIK SIG GROUP AG SIKA AG

SMITH (DS) PLC. SSAB AB

STORA ENSO OYJ SVEN.CELL.AB.SCA SYENSQO NV SYMRISE AG UMICORE SA UPM-KYMMENE OYJ

VERALLIA SA
VIDRALA SA
VISCOFAN SA
VOESTALPINE AG
WIENERBERGER AG
YARA INTERNATIONAL ASA

Industrials (1/2)

A P MOLLER - MAERSK A/S

AALBERTS NV ABB LTD N

ACCELLERON INDUSTRIES AG

ACCIONA SA

ADDTECH AB

ACKERMANS & VAN HAAREN ACS ACTIV.CONSTR.Y SERV.

ADECCO SA
ADP
AENA SME SA
AIRBUS SE
ALFA LAVAL AB
ALSTOM SA
ANDRITZ AG
ARCADIS NV

ASHTEAD GROUP PLC.
ATLAS COPCO AB
AZELIS GROUP NV
BAE SYSTEMS PLC.
BALFOUR BEATTY PLC.
BEIJER REF AB
BELIMO HOLDING AG

BUCHER INDUSTRIES AG

BUNZL PLC.

BOUYGUES SA

BUREAU VERITAS INTL.

DAIMLER TRUCK HOLDING AG DASSAULT AVIATION

DEUTSCHE LUFTHANSA AG DEUTSCHE POST AG DIPLOMA PLC. DKSH HOI DING AG

DSV A/S

EASYJET PLC. EDENRED SE EIFFAGE ELIS

EPIROC AB NPV A

EXOR EXPERIAN PLC. FERROVIAL SE

FLUGHAFEN ZURICH AG GEA GROUP AG GEORG FISCHER AG

GETLINK SE HOCHTIEF AG IMI PLC.

INDUTRADE AB
INFICON HOLDING AG
INFORMA PLC.
INPOST SA

INTERPUMP GROUP INTERTEK GROUP PLC. INTL.CONS.AIRL.GROUP SA

INTL.DS.SVS.PLC. ISS AS

IVECO GROUP KION GP.AG PREREIN. KNORR BREMSE AG KONE OYJ

KONECRANES OYJ KONGSBERG GRUPPEN ASA

KUEHNE+NAGEL INTL.G LEGRAND LEONARDO SPA MELROSE INDUSTRIES

METSO OYJ

MTU AERO ENGINES HLDG.AG

MUNTERS GROUP LTD.

NEXANS SA NEXI SPA

NIBE INDUSTRIER AB

NKT A/S

POSTE ITALIANE PRYSMIAN

QINETIQ GROUP PLC. RANDSTAD NV RENTOKIL INITIAL PLC.

REXEL

RHEINMETALL AG

ROLLS-ROYCE HOLDINGS PLC

ROTORK PLC.

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC.

SAAB AB SAFRAN SA

SCHINDLER HOLDING AG SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC SE

SECURITAS AB
SERCO GROUP PLC.
SFS GROUP AG
SGS SA
SIEMENS AG

SKANSKA AB SKF AB SPIE SA

SPIRAX GROUP PLC.

SULZER AG SWECO AB

TELEPERFORMANCE

THALES SA

TOMRA SYSTEMS ASA TRELLEBORG AB VALMET OYJ

Source: LSEG

Industrials (2/2) and Real Estate

Europe Capital Market Study

Industrials (2/2)

VAT GROUP
VINCI SA
VOLVO AB
WARTSILA OYJ ABP
WEIR GROUP PLC.
WISE PLC.

WOLTERS KLUWER NV

Real Estate

AEDIFICA NV ALLREAL HOLDING AG

BIG YELLOW GROUP PLC. BRIT.LD.CO.PLC. CASTELLUM AB COFINIMMO

DERWENT LONDON PLC. FASTIGHETS BALDER AB

GECINA KLEPIERRE

COVIVIO SA

LAND SECURITIES GP.PLC. LEG IMMOBILIEN SE LONDONMETRIC PR.PLC. MERLIN PROPERTIES REIT PSP SWISS PROPERTY AG SAFESTORE HOLDINGS PLC.

SAGAX AB SEGRO PLC.

SHAFTESBURY CAPITAL PLC.

SWISS PRIME SITE
TAG IMMOBILIEN AG
TRITAX BIG BOX REIT PLC.
UNITE GROUP PLC.
VONOVIA SE PRE
WALLENSTAM AB

WAREHOUSES DE PAUW NV WFD UNIBAIL RODAMCO NV WIHLBORGS FASTIGHETER AB

