

# DUCGIANG CHEMICALS GROUP JSC (DGC) - UPDATE

Market Price	Target Price	<b>Dividend Yield</b>	Rating	Sector
VND50,400	VND79,200	5.8%	Add	BASIC MATERIALS
25 November 2022				14

#### **Outlook – Short term:** Neutral Outlook - Long term: Positive Valuation: Positive

Consensus\*: Add:3 Hold:2 Reduce: 0 Target price / Consensus: -19.9%

#### Key changes in the report

Increase EPS FY22/23F 2.7%/7.4%

#### Price performance





Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

#### **Key statistics**

52w high (VND)	134,700
52w low (VND)	51,100
3m Avg daily value (VNDmn)	287,197
Market cap (VND bn)	19,407
Free float (%)	47
TTM P/E (x)	3.7
Current P/B (x)	1.9

#### **Ownership**

Dao Huu Huyen	18.5%
Dao Huu Kha	6.1%
Ngo Thi Ngoc Lan	6.8%
Others	68.6%
Source: VNDIRECT	RESEARCH

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# Better than expected profitability

- We believe DGC is the standout given its ample net cash position allows the company to enjoy the deposit rates hike and strengthening US\$.
- We lower TP to VND79,200/share due to change in project Chlor-Alkali-Vinyl but big share price swing gives an upgrade to ADD opportunity.

#### 3Q22 performance remains intact

DGC posted strong 3Q22 results with VND3,696bn (+76% yoy) in net revenue regarding to: (1) an 50% yoy increase average selling price (ASP), (2) 52% yoy in agriculture phosphates revenue. 3Q22 gross margin (GM) widened to 44.5% (+24.1% pts yoy) mainly driven by higher ASP and cost-saving technology. 3Q22 earnings grew 195.8% yoy, making 9M22 pace to 318.4% yoy to VND4,535bn, largely in line with our forecast.

#### Taking advantage from supply shortage from China

Yunnan - one of 4 largest yellow phosphorus producing hub in China has implemented the "Energy Efficiency Management Plan from Sep-22 to May-23" which dragged the ultilisation ratio of phosphorus enterprises in Yunnan to 41% in Oct from 69% in Sep. We expect phosphorus prices to stay at range US\$4,600-US\$5,300/tonne until 1H23F before slowing down in 2H23F as 1) China suspends policy to limit phosphorus production and 2) lower input coke prices. Overall, we revise up FY22-23F earnings by 2.7%/7.4% following the increase 6.1%/4.8% phosphorus ASP.

## DGC benefits from both higher deposit rates and FX volatility

DGC is a net exporter with 80% of revenue in US\$, 40% of cost of goods sold in US\$ and no US\$ debts. Thus, the company has limited risk or even slight advantage on the strengthening US\$. Additionally, given its low D/E ratio (16%) and a net cash/share of VND17,703/share at end-3Q22, DGC likely enjoys the current deposit rates hike.

#### Change in chlor-alkali-vinyl (CAV) plan

DGC will crop the size of its CAV project's first phase — from operating 150,000 tonnes of caustic soda p.a. from early 2025 to only 50,000 tones from mid-24, in order to focus on investing in bauxite - aluminum projects. Thus, we lower our forecast FY25-26F NP from the chlor-alkali-vinyl (CAV) project by 30%/25%.

#### Upgrade to ADD rating with lower TP of VND79,200/share

We lower DCF valuation by 21.1% based on a 19.2%/23.5% FY25-26F EPS downgrade due to change in project plan CAV. The recent share price slump has dragged DGC's FY23F P/E to only 4.6x, 54% discount to its 3-year average. We believe this valuation is relatively attractive for a country leading phosphorus producer with nearly risk-free to FX volatility and rate hike. Upside potential is longer-than-expected supply shortage from China. Downside risks include higher investment cost and implementation risks of the upcoming CAV project.

Financial summary (VND)	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E	12-24E
Net revenue (bn)	9,567	15,119	13,461	13,592
Revenue growth	53.4%	58.0%	(11.0%)	1.0%
Gross margin	33.4%	44.7%	37.9%	33.4%
EBITDA margin	25.7%	40.5%	33.8%	27.4%
Net profit (bn)	2,405	5,676	4,256	3,664
Net profit growth	165.3%	136.0%	(25.0%)	(13.9%)
Recurring profit growth	167.0%	136.0%	(25.0%)	(13.9%)
Basic EPS	6,480	15,291	11,465	9,870
Adjusted EPS	6,293	14,776	11,079	9,537
BVPS	16,306	28,321	36,382	42,912
ROAE	48.3%	68.5%	35.4%	24.9%

Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH



## **BETTER THAN EXPECTED PROFITABILITY**

### **Investment thesis**

#### We like DGC for:

- DGC is Asia's largest exporter of yellow phosphorus an essential material for semiconductor manufacturing and food and beverage industry.
- The company enjoys nearly risk-free to interest rates hike and VND depreciation given its ample net cash position (~VND17,703/share at end-3Q22) and net export exposure (export 80% of revenue, import 40% of COGS)
- Strengthening the position and earnings growth into FY24F with the VND7,000bn chlor-alkali-vinyl (CAV) project. The phase 1 with capacity of will come online since 3Q24F and contribute about 15% of annual revenue since FY25F.
- DGC stock price has dropped 33.2% from Aug-22, following the market correction. Currently, DGC is traded at 4.6x FY23F P/E, which is a 54% discount to its 3-year average. We believe this valuation is relatively attractive for a country leading phosphorus producer with nearly riskfree to FX volatility and rate hike.

#### Upgrade to ADD rating with lower TP of VND79,200/share

We lower our forecast FY25-26F EPS from the chlor-alkali-vinyl (CAV) project by 30%/25% as DGC is considering changing its long-term plan from CAV to bauxite-aluminum. Thus, we decrease DCF valuation by 21.1%. We also lower target FY23F P/E to 7.0x from previous 8.5x. Consequently, our 1-year target price is revised down to VND79,200/share

Upside potential come from the increase in yellow phosphorus price could last until 2023F as China may continue to tighten restrictions on the production of environmental pollution products. Downside risks include 1) selling price of phosphorus correcting stronger than expected, 2) higher input electricity prices and 3) execution risks of the upcoming CAV project.

#### Figure 1: Blended target price

Method	Price	Weight	Weight price (VND)		
Method	11100	weight			
FCFF	79,866	50%	39,933		
P/E	78,625	50%	39,313		
Average price (vnd)			79,246		
Target price (rounded)			79,200		
		SOURCE: VNDIRECT RESEAR			

#### Figure 2: Multiples (P/E)

Forecasted Net profit in 2023F (VND bn)	4,256
Number of fully diluted shares in FY22F	378,900,000
FY23F EPS (VND/ share)	11,232
Target P/E (x)	7.0
Target price (VND/ share)	78,625
	SOURCE: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

# Figure 3: Discounted cash flows - future cash flows to firm (FCFF) approach

Present value of Free Cash Flow to Firm	21,245
Present value of Terminal value (VNDbn)	4,543
Enterprise Value (VNDbn)	25,788
Net debt (VNDbn)	4,481
Equity value (VNDbn)	30,269
No. of Outstanding Share 2022 (million)	379
Equity value per share (VND/share)	79,866
Risk free rate	4.0%
Beta	1.5
WACC	16.2%
Cost of equity	20.5%
Long term growth	1.5%
	SOURCE: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

#### Figure 4: Peer comparison

				Market				3 year EPS									
				cap	P/E	(x)		growth	P/B (	x)		EV/E	BITDA		ROE	(%)	
0	Tielees	Recom.	Target	US\$m			2023F	CAGR	0	0000F	00005	<b>TTNA</b>	00005	00005		0000	0000F
Company	Ticker	Recom.	price	02200	TTM 2	2022F	2023F		Current	20225	2023F	TTM	2022F	2023F	TTM		2023F
Hubei Xingfa Chemicals Group Co Ltd	6000141CH	na	na	5,929	5.1	5.5	5.1	161.8	1.8	1.4	1.3	6.2	4.7	4.8	48.9	32.6	27.5
Yunnan Yuntianhua Co Ltd	600096 CH	na	na	8,392	6.4	6.2	6.2	507.2	2.5	1.8	1.6	na	5.8	6.2	47.6	41.0	28.4
Hubei Yihua Chemical Industry Co Ltd	000422 CH	na	na	2,971	7.8	5.9	4.8	634.9	2.8	1.7	1.5	na	4.7	4.4	60.0	55.5	37.1
Hongda Xingye Co Ltd	002002 CH	na	na	2,266	na	na	na	15.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	-1.0	na	na
Anhui Sierte Fertilizer Industry Ltd Co	002538 CH	na	na	894	12.7	11.4	11.0	33.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	8.7	6.1	5.9	10.9	11.6	11.2
Kunming Chuan Jin Nuo Chemical Co Ltd	300505 CH	na	na	768	12.9	8.9	7.0	104.1	na	na	na	na	na	na	24.7	na	na
China General Plastics Corp	1305 TT	na	na	3,073	10.9	19.3	4.9	42.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	15.9	10.4	5.1	14.2	7.0	22.5
Petrovietnam Fertilizer and Chemical Cor	DPM VN	na	na	243	41.8	na	14.2	152.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	51.6	40.1	23.5
Petrovietnam Camau Fertilizer JSC	DCM VN	na	na	263	3.5	3.4	4.3	80.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.8	49.8	41.5	22.9
Average					9.3	8.6	7.2	214.0	1.9	1.4	1.2	10.3	6.4	4.2	29.3	29.5	24.7
Median					9.4	6.2		104.1	1.8	1.4	1.2	8.7	5.8	4.8	24.7	32.6	23.5
Duc Giang Chemicals Group JSC	DGC VN	ADD	79,200	591	3.4	3.5	4.6	141.2	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.0	2.5	2.3	73.8	68.5	35.4
									SOUR	CE: V	'NDIRE	ECT	RESE	ARCH	, BLC	DOME	3ERG



## 3Q22 performance remains intact

#### Figure 5: 3Q22 results comparison

VND(bn)	3Q21	30.22 a	yoy rowth (%)	9M21	9M22	yoy growth (%)	% vs FY22F	Comments
Revenue	2,106	3.696	75.5%	6,094	11,333	86.0%		
Phosphorus chemicals	1, 122	2,200	96.1%	3,238	7,557	133.4%	72.7%	The average price of yellow phosphorus reached US\$5,700/ton (+50% yoy) due to 1) shortage of Chinese apatite ore - the main input of phosphorus products, 2) Ukraine-Russia conflict and 3) Strong demand for electronics and lithium battery industries. Phosphorus sales fell 18.5% qoq as DGC conducted on P4 equipment and lower average selling prices.
Agricultural phosphates	984	1,496	52.0%	2,856	3,776	32.2%	72%	Agricultual photphorate increased 52% yoy in 3Q22 mainly driven by (1) China and Russia's export restrictions — the key sources of imported fertilizer for Vietnam and India and (2) DGC ramped up its wet phosphoric acid (WPA) exports.
Gross profit	640	1,646	157.2%	1,566	5,480	249.9%	78.7%	,
Gross profit margin	30.4%	44.5% +	14.1% pts	25.7%	48.4%	+22.7% pts		GM soared 22,7% pts thanks to higher selling prices and cost savings from DGC's first apatite ore mine, which were partly offset by surging input material prices, sulfur, coking coal and ammonia.
Selling expenses	(123)	(145)	17.9%	(360)	(468)	30.0%	67.8%	
G&A expenses	(30)	(34)	13.3%	(87)	(93)	6.9%	67.4%	G&A expense only incresed 13.3% yoy as DGC cut labor costs in other businesses such as washing powder and thermal phosphoric acid (TPA)
Pre-tax profit	516	1,596	209.3%	1180	5,181	339.1%	81.3%	
Net profit	478	1,414	195.8%	1084	4,535	318.4%	81.3%	
							Sour	CCE: VNDIRECT RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORT

#### Outlook FY23-24F: China limits phosphorus production again

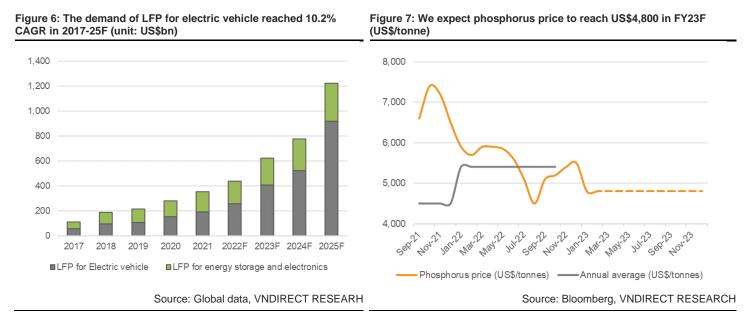
# Yellow phosphorus price rebound in 4Q22 due to production restriction order from China

Since Sep-22, yellow phosphorus in China has been subject to control over energy consumption policy. Yunnan - one of the 4 largest yellow phosphorus producing provinces in China has implemented the "Energy Efficiency Management Plan from Sep-22 to May-23 for the energy consumption sector". Accordingly, the yellow phosphorus production enterprises in Yunnan province will reduce and stop production altogether. As of Oct-22, the operating ratio of yellow phosphorus enterprises in Yunnan has dropped to about 41%, down 28% compared to mid-September. While daily output was only 805 tonnes (-41.8% vs mid-Sep). Thus, phosphorus price in Sep-22 increased 15.5% mom, achieving US\$5,200/tonne. We expect phosphorus prices to maintain high prices (US\$4,600-US\$5,300/tonne) until 1H23F before slowing down in 2H23F as 1) weakened demand from the electronics sector and 2) lower input coke prices. As a result, we increase phosphorus's ASP by 6.1%/4.8% in FY22/23F vs. previous forecast.

On the downside risk, the ongoing economic downturn in the developed countries will cause the demand for electronics to fall more sharply than expected in 2023. Many chip and semiconductor manufacturers (Korea, Japan, the US) have planned to reduce the volume due to concerns about large inventories and risks of oversupply in 1H23F. We think that high inflation and a prolonged economic downturn could cause phosphorus prices to decrease more significant than expected in 2023F. Thus, we make a conservative forecast for

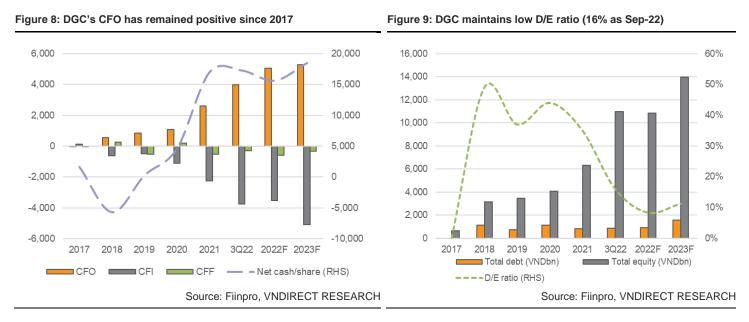


phosphorus prices in FY23-24F, reaching US\$4,800/tonne (-20.8%yoy)/US\$3,900/tonne (-18.7% yoy), respectively



#### DGC benefits from both higher deposit rates and US\$/VND exchange rate

DGC is a net exporter with 80% of revenue in US\$, 40% of cost of goods sold in US\$ and no US\$ debts. Thus, the company has limited risk or even slight advantage on the strengthening US\$. Additionally, given its low D/E ratio (16%) and a net cash/share of VND17,703/share at end-3Q22, DGC likely enjoys the current deposit rates hike.



#### Change in CAV project

DGC is reducing the size of its CAV project's first phase — from operating 150,000 tonnes of caustic soda p.a. from early 2025F to only 50,000 tonnes from mid-24. In addition, DGC could begin construction on its bauxite project before the second phase of the CAV project that produces PVC plastic. The earliest the bauxite project can come online is 2026F. We have not factored this potential change into our forecast as the bauxite project has not yet been approved. We expect CAV project to operate 100% capacity in last 6 month in 2024F thanks



to high demand for caustic soda from domestic market. Thus, we lower our forecast FY25-26 NP from the chlor-alkali-vinyl (CAV) project by 30%/25% as DGC is considering changing its long-term plan from CAV to bauxite-aluminum.

#### FY22-23F earnings forecast revision

We change our forecasts on DGC's business as following:

- We increase FY23F phosphorus chemicals revenue by 5.5% versus previous forecast due to higher phosphorus ASP.
- We decrease agricultural phosphate revenue 6.3%/14.5% in FY22/23F versus our previous forecast mainly driven by weak demand in the domestic market.
- We increase 0.3% pts/1.1% pts in FY22/23F GM thanks to higher-than expected phosphorus selling prices and cost savings from DGC's second apatite ore mine.
- We increase DGC's financial income in FY22-23F by 40.2%/45.3% thanks to taking advantage from FX gain.
- We forecast DGC to pay 20% cash dividend in FY23F, lower than 30% in FY22F due to investment in CAV project in 2H23F.
- We think that phosphorus price will reach equilibrium in 2024F, reaching VND90m/tonne. We forecast DGC's revenue in FY24F to increase slightly 0.8% yoy thanks to contribution from caustic soda revenue.
- We forecast DGC's NP in 2024 to decrease 13.9% yoy due to lower phosphorus ASP.

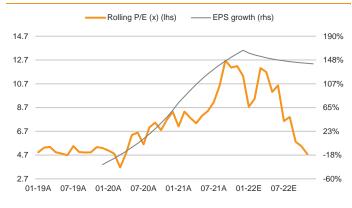
As a result, we revise up FY22/23F net profit forecast by 2.7%/7.4%.

#### Figure 10: Changes in FY22-23F forecasts (VNDbn)

VNDbn		Old	New	% уоу	%change	Old	New	% уоу	%change	
Phosphorus ASP (VNDm/tonne)	84	132	140	66.7%	6.1%	105	110	-21.4%	4.8%	90
Net revenue	9,567	15,669	15,119	58.0%	-3.5%	13,799	13,461	-11.0%	-2.4%	13,592
Phosphorus chemicals	5,190	10,398	10,180	96.1%	-2.1%	8,302	8,760	-13.9%	5.5%	8,407
Agricultral phosphates	4,377	5,271	4,939	12.8%	-6.3%	5,497	4,701	-4.8%	-14.5%	4,185
Caustic soda										1,000
Gross profit	3,198	6,964	6,755	111.2%	-3.0%	5,076	5,098	-24.5%	0.4%	4,540
Gross margin (%)	33.4%	44.4%	44.7%	+11.3%pts	+0.3%pts	36.8%	37.9%	-15.2%	+1.1%pts	-4.5%pts
Selling expense	(503)	(783)	(680)	35.2%	-13.1%	(690)	(606)	-11.0%	-12.2%	(612)
G&A expense	(137)	(157)	(121)	-11.4%	-23.0%	(138)	(108)	-11.0%	-22.0%	(109)
EBT	2,654	6,138	6,307	137.7%	2.7%	4,403	4,729	-25.0%	7.4%	4,071
Net profit	2,531	5,525	5,676	124.3%	2.7%	3,962	4,256	-25.0%	7.4%	3,664
EPS (VND)	6,822	14,892	15,299	124.3%	2.7%	10,679	11,471	-25.0%	7.4%	9,875
	Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH, Company report									

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#### Valuation

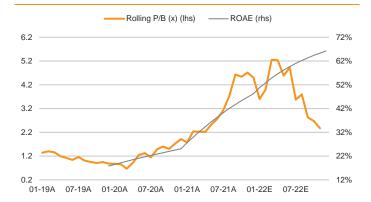


#### Income statement

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(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Net revenue	9,567	15,119	13,461
Cost of sales	(6,369)	(8,364)	(8,363)
Gen & admin expenses	(137)	(121)	(108)
Selling expenses	(503)	(680)	(606)
Operating profit	2,559	5,954	4,384
Operating EBITDA	2,345	5,752	4,173
Depreciation and amortisation	213	202	212
Operating EBIT	2,559	5,954	4,384
Interest income	171	410	414
Financial expense	(68)	(87)	(96)
Net other income	(7)	30	27
Income from associates & JVs	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	2,654	6,307	4,729
Tax expense	(123)	(334)	(251)
Minority interest	(126)	(296)	(222)
Net profit	2,405	5,676	4,256
Adj. net profit to ordinary	2,405	5,676	4,256
Ordinary dividends	(237)	(1,139)	(759)
Retained earnings	2,169	4,537	3,496

#### Balance sheet

(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Cash and equivalents	124	369	240
Short term investments	3,632	6,124	5,818
Accounts receivables	781	1,824	1,477
Inventories	1,208	1,570	1,413
Other current assets	81	179	159
Total current assets	5,825	10,067	9,107
Fixed assets	2,145	2,173	6,777
Total investments	0	0	51
Other long-term assets	368	479	538
Total assets	8,339	12,719	16,474
Short-term debt	842	907	1,077
Accounts payable	505	167	167
Other current liabilities	659	716	756
Total current liabilities	2,006	1,790	2,000
Total long-term debt	0	0	500
Other liabilities		67	0
Share capital	1,711	1,711	1,711
Retained earnings reserve	2,923	7,267	10,409
Shareholders' equity	6,053	10,513	13,505
Minority interest	280	349	469
Total liabilities & equity	8,339	12,719	16,474



#### Cash flow statement

ousil now statement			
(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Pretax profit	2,654	6,307	4,729
Depreciation & amortisation	202	212	386
Tax paid	(123)	(334)	(251)
Other adjustments	0	0	0
Change in working capital	(192)	(1,063)	432
Cash flow from operations	2,541	5,121	5,297
Capex	(217)	(328)	(5,178)
Proceeds from assets sales	0	0	0
Others	49	410	414
Other non-current assets changes	(2,039)	(3,615)	(331)
Cash flow from investing activities	(2,207)	(3,533)	(5,095)
New share issuance	0	0	0
Shares buyback			
Net borrowings	(301)	(148)	731
Other financing cash flow	(11)	8	(236)
Dividends paid	(237)	(1,139)	(759)
Cash flow from financing activities	(548)	(1,279)	(264)
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	282	124	369
Total cash generated	(214)	309	(62)
Cash and equivalents at the end of period	68	433	307

#### Key ratios

	12-21A	12-22E	12-23E
Dupont			
Net profit margin	25.1%	37.5%	31.6%
Asset turnover	1.35	1.44	0.92
ROAA	33.8%	53.9%	29.2%
Avg assets/avg equity	1.43	1.27	1.22
ROAE	48.3%	68.5%	35.4%
Efficiency			
Days account receivable	24.0	39.9	36.0
Days inventory	69.2	68.5	61.7
Days creditor	28.9	7.3	7.3
Fixed asset turnover	4.39	7.00	3.01
ROIC	33.5%	48.2%	27.4%
Liquidity			
Current ratio	2.9	5.6	4.6
Quick ratio	2.3	4.7	3.8
Cash ratio	1.9	3.6	3.0
Cash cycle	64.3	101.2	90.3
Growth rate (yoy)			
Revenue growth	53.4%	58.0%	(11.0%)
Operating profit growth	159.3%	132.7%	(26.4%)
Net profit growth	165.3%	136.0%	(25.0%)
EPS growth	165.3%	136.0%	(25.0%)

Source: VND RESEARCH



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RECOMMENDATION FRAMEWORK			
Stock Ratings	Definition:		
Add	The stock's total return is expected to reach 15% or higher over the next 12 months.		
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between negative 10% and positive 15% over the next 12 months.		
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below negative 10% over the next 12 months.		
months.	and (ii) the forward net dividend yields of the stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12		
Sector Ratings	Definition:		
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.		
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.		
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.		

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