

## Still seems inexpensive

**Outperform reiterated, TP increased to PLN113 (from PLN110 before)**

We think that Pekao remains cheap. Valuation multiples (2023E P/E of 4.1x, 2023E P/BV of 0.9x and 12.1% DY) outweighed our concerns related to state control, below market loan growth, above market cost pressure and disappointing 50% pay-outs. Therefore we rate Pekao Outperform with a 19% upside potential.

Our largest concern related to Pekao is that either burdens imposed during election campaign or rate cuts could make Pekao's share price attractiveness illusory.

**Can 2023E net income be record high?** We assume the company could report 2023E net income of PLN5.7bn in the absence of negative one-offs. The one-offs could be triggered by the election campaign and we should have more clarity on them in mid-June.

**Total loans 2% down y/y vs market +1%.** We note a relative weakness in both main segments. Pekao reported 1Q23 retail loans 7.5% lower than a year ago (vs market -5.1%), but this was offset by 3.5% y/y growth in corporate loans (vs 8.6% in the market).

**Personnel cost to increase at a pace close to inflation in 2023** – deputy CEO, Paweł Strączyński, said during the analyst conference. The collective labour agreement (ZUZP) at Pekao automatically increases employees salary with inflation. We find this confusing that after years of restructuring and group lay-offs, Pekao is applying such big salary hikes.

**DPS of PLN3.65 (DY of 3.7%) seems disappointing to us.** For the second year in a row, Pekao decided to pay out 50% of its standalone net income (record day is July 4<sup>th</sup>). We find it disappointing as it is below the maximum level of 75% allowed by both Pekao's dividend policy and PFSA recommendation. The reason given by the management was MREL requirements once again. We continue to disagree with limiting payouts because of MREL, we think Pekao could comfortably go after the 75% payout.

**Valuation and risks.** Our Dec'23 TP is at PLN113.0 (vs PLN110.0 before) and is a weighted average of DDM pointing to valuation of PLN123.1 and a comparative valuation pointing to PLN104.7 (all per share). Among risk factors we point to: Pekao being state-controlled, risk of disappointing dividend payout, potential deterioration in loan portfolio, risk of windfall taxes, risks related to 2023E election campaign.

### Bank Pekao: Financial summary and ratios

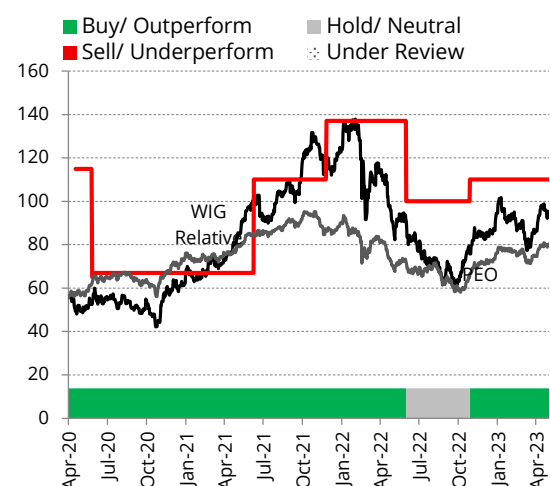
PLNmn, Year to Dec	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
P/E (adjusted)	14.7x	5.0x	4.3x	5.4x	5.8x
P/E (reported)	14.7x	13.2x	4.3x	5.4x	5.8x
P/BV	1.34x	1.00x	0.88x	0.78x	0.74x
Dividend Yield	2.6%	5.0%	3.9%	11.6%	9.3%
EPS (adjusted) (PLN)	8.3	17.4	21.9	17.6	16.3
DPS (PLN)	3.21	4.30	3.65	11.00	8.82
BVPS (PLN)	90.9	86.7	107.9	121.9	127.1
Net Income adj. (PLN mn)	2,175	4,579	5,753	4,629	4,267
Net Income (PLN mn)	2,175	1,718	5,775	4,629	4,267

Source: Company data, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates

### Recommendation Outperform

**Dec'23 Target Price (PLN) 113.0**

Current price (PLN, May 8, 2023)	94.70
Market cap. (PLNmn)	24,856
Avg. daily turnover (PLNmn/)	71.3
Number of shares (mn)	262.5



The chart measures relative performance against the WIG index.

### Main shareholders % of votes

PZU	20.0%
PFR	12.8%
OFE NN	6.52%
BlackRock	5.04%
OFE Aviva Santander	5.02%

Source: Company data, Santander Brokerage Poland

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**Fig. 1. Valuation summary (PLN/share)**

Recommendation	Outperform	DDM valuation (PLN/share)	123.1	Comp. Valuation PLN/share	104.7
Dec'23 Target Price (PLN)	113.00	Discounted dividends (PLN/share)	31.4	Net Income (PLN mn, next 12 months)	5,499
Current price (PLN)	94.70	Terminal value (PLN/share)	92	Applied P/E (x)	5.0
Prospective upside (%)	19	Terminal ROE (%)	13.06	P/E peers (x)	5.0
		g (%)	3.00		
		CoE 2022-2025 (%)	12.20		
		CoE terminal (%)	12.20	<b>CHF impact</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
		Beta (x)	1.20		
		ERP (%)	6.0		

\*Our Dec'23 Target Price is calculated as rounded average of DDM Valuation (50%) and Comp. Valuation (50%) less impact of CHF-mortgage portfolio.

**Fig. 2. DDM Valuation sensitivity (PLN/share)**

ROE->	11.1%	12.1%	13.1%	14.1%	15.1%
2.0%	105.9	114.1	122.3	130.5	138.8
2.5%	105.4	114.0	122.7	131.3	140.0
3.0%	104.9	114.0	123.1	132.2	141.3
3.5%	104.3	113.9	123.5	133.2	142.8
4.0%	103.6	113.8	124.0	134.3	144.5

**Fig. 3. DDM Valuation sensitivity (PLN/share)**

ERP->	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	7.0%	8.0%
4.0%	192.1	159.9	137.3	120.6	107.8
4.5%	177.2	149.6	129.8	114.9	103.4
5.0%	164.5	140.6	123.1	109.8	99.3
5.5%	153.5	132.7	117.1	105.1	95.6
6.0%	144.0	125.7	111.8	100.9	92.2

**Fig. 4. Our forecast vs Bloomberg consensus**

	Bloomberg consensus			Our assumptions vs cons.		
	2023E	2024E	2025E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Net income	4,617	4,099	3,703	25%	13%	15%
DPS (PLN)	7.62	8.92	8.76	44%	-1%	-7%
ROE (%)	18.8	14.8	13.2	3.7 pp	0.5 pp	-0.1 pp

**Fig. 5. Comps Valuation sensitivity (PLN/share)**

Fair P/E (x)	2.0x	3.0x	4.0x	5.0x	7.0x	9.0x
vs. peers (%)	-60	-40	-20	0	40	80
Sensitivity	41.9	62.8	83.8	104.7	146.6	188.5

**Fig. 6. Ratios, Assumptions and Forecasts**

P&L (PLN mn)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
NII	5,661	10,203	11,283	10,370	10,132
F&C	2,688	2,807	2,809	2,837	2,866
Trading Income	190	215	291	190	206
Total Revenue	8,541	12,940	14,320	13,397	13,204
Cost	-4,047	-4,561	-4,936	-5,203	-5,407
NLLP	-778	-1,103	-877	-1,068	-1,101
Pre-tax Profit	3,721	3,749	8,535	7,127	6,696
Banking tax	-719	-866	-891	-929	-955
Net Income	2,175	1,718	5,775	4,629	4,267
Net Income (adj.)	2,175	4,579	5,753	4,629	4,267

NIM ratios (%)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Asset yield	2.58	5.32	6.54	5.05	4.59
Funding cost	0.10	1.28	2.58	1.64	1.42
NIM	2.49	4.15	4.19	3.57	3.31

Du Pont (%)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
NII/assets	2.34	3.84	3.84	3.28	3.05
CoR/assets	-0.32	-0.41	-0.30	-0.34	-0.33
F&C/assets	1.11	1.06	0.96	0.90	0.86
Other rev/assets	0.08	-0.28	0.08	0.06	0.06
Costs/assets	-1.68	-1.72	-1.68	-1.65	-1.63
Taxes&other	-0.64	-0.76	-0.94	-0.79	-0.73
ROA	0.90	1.72	1.96	1.46	1.28
Leverage (x)	9.8	11.4	11.5	10.5	10.2
ROE (reported)	8.82	19.65	22.53	15.35	13.06

PLN bn	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Total Assets	251	281	306	326	338
Bonds	56	70	86	98	106
Loans	170	169	174	182	185
Loans growth (%)	12	-1	3	4	2
Deposits	203	223	241	252	256
Equity	24	23	28	32	33
Mortgage loans	69	65	63	63	63
CHF mortgages	3	3	2	2	2
Other retail loans	12	11	11	11	10
Corporate loans	97	103	111	120	125

Risk ratios (%)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Stage 3 ratio	5.0	6.0			
Stage 3 coverage	71.1	71.2			
Cost of risk	0.48	1.19	0.51	0.60	0.60

Capital & dividends	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Tier-1 (PLN bn)	22.7	23.1	22.7	22.7	22.7
Tier-2 (PLN bn)	2.8	2.7	6.4	11.5	16.5
TCR (PLN bn)	12.0	11.9	12.0	12.5	12.7
RWA (PLN mn)	150.4	148.3	149.8	156.3	159.2
CT1 ratio (%)	15.1	15.6	15.2	14.6	14.3
CAR ratio (%)	16.9	17.4	19.5	21.9	24.7
Div. payout (%)	51.9	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
Dividend (PLN mn)	843	1,129	958	2,888	2,315
No. of shares (mn)	262	262	262	262	262

Source for all tables: Company data, Bloomberg, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates NOTE: historical valuation ratios based on eoy

## 1Q23 11% beat on stronger revenue and lower cost of risk

Bank Pekao reported 1Q23 net income of PLN1,446mn (+63% q/q; +59% y/y), 11% stronger than PAP consensus on:

- NII surprisingly increased q/q and came 3% stronger than expected - driven by stronger NIM
- Pekao released PLN27mn of CHF provisions
- 1Q23 BFG contribution stood at PLN191.7mn

**Fig. 7. Quarterly results review**

Fig. 7 Quarterly Results Review

Bank Pekao (PLN m)	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	q/q (%)	y/y (%)	1Q23E	vs E.	PAP cons	vs cons.
Net Interest Income	2,069	2,567	2,827	2,740	2,774	1	34	2,700	3	2,704	3
Fees and Commissions	705	716	714	672	686	2	-3	675	2	674	2
Trading Income	51	-20	22	162	159	-2	214	100	59		
Other (Net)	-1	-175	-105	-224	-63			0			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>3,088</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>3,556</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,471</b>	<b>2</b>
Personnel Costs	-558	-581	-569	-592	-614	4	10	-642	-4		
General Expenses	-510	-861	-403	-311	-552	78	8	-535	3		
D&A	-177	-140	-161	-138	-156	13	-12	-150	4		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>-1,245</b>	<b>-1,583</b>	<b>-1,133</b>	<b>-1,041</b>	<b>-1,322</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-1,327</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,332</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>1,578</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>5</b>
Net Loan Loss Provisions	-134	-129	-260	-178	-132	-26	-2	-175	-24	-202	-35
Associate income	1	1	1	2	1			0			
Other (Net)		-402	-2,429	-443	27						
<b>Pre-tax Profit</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>-362</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>8</b>		
Corporate Income Tax	-335	-292	41	-577	-464	-19	38	-382	22		
Banking tax'	-202	-214	-222	-228	-219	-4	9	-229	-4		
Minority interests	-1	-1	0	0	0			0	-315		
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>-544</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>11</b>
Net income excl. One-offs	907	1,226	1,592	1,705	1,563	-8	72	1,363	15		
Balance Sheet (PLN m)	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	q/q (%)	y/y (%)	1Q23E	vs E.		
Net client lending	161.8	163.2	167.0	158.7	158.9	0	-2	157.0	1		
Securities	59.3	58.6	59.6	80.3	89.0	11	50	90.0	-1		
Customer deposits	205.0	203.2	209.2	210.7	227.2	8	11	225.7	1		
Total assets	271.9	277.6	279.6	281.1	292.6	4	8	285.5	2		
Equity ex minorities	23.5	21.5	20.9	22.8	25.1	10	7	23.9	5		
Key Ratios	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	q/q (%)	y/y (%)	1Q23E	vs E.		
Net Interest Margin	3.46	4.19	4.51	4.30	4.22	-7 bps	76 bps	4.14	8 bps		
Cost to Income	44	51	33	31	37	6 pp	-7 pp	38	-1 pp		
Cost of risk [bps]	33	32	63	44	33	-10 bps	0 bps	44-11 bps			
Loans to deposits ratio	79	80	80	75	70	-5 pp	-9 pp	70	0 pp		
ROE	15.3	8.3	-10.2	16.2	24.2	7.9 pp	8.8 pp	23.4	0.8 pp		
Tax rate	23.2	29.9	11.3	34.1	21.8-12.3 pp	-1.4 pp		19.3	2.5 pp		

Source: Company data, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates, PAP consensus. Financial year to December.

## Forecast changes

With this report we are materially reducing expected cost of risk and account for 1Q23 and 4Q22 reported results. Our previous report on Pekao was published on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

**Fig. 8. PEKAO SA- Forecast changes – balance sheet**

PLN bn	2023E			PLN bn	2024E			PLN bn
	New	Old	%		New	Old	%	
Total Assets	306.0	302.7	1	3	326.1	321.4	1	5
Bonds	86.4	63.2	37	23	98.1	73.2	34	25
Loans	174.2	185.1	-6	-11	181.8	192.7	-6	-11
Loans growth (%)	3	4			4	4		
Deposits	241.1	228.5	6	13	251.6	237.8	6	14
Equity	28.3	26.3	8	2	32.0	29.4	9	3
Mortgage loans	63.2	65.8	-4	-3	63.0	65.4	-4	-2
CHF mortgages	2.3	2.5	-9	0	2.1	2.3	-9	0
Other retail loans	10.8	10.8	0	0	10.5	10.6	0	0
Corporate loans	110.7	119.6	-7	-9	119.8	129.4	-7	-10

Source: Santander Brokerage Poland estimates

**Fig. 9. PEKAO SA- Forecast changes – P&L**

P&L (PLN mn)	2023E			PLN mn	2024E			PLN mn
	New	Old	%		New	Old	%	
NII	11,283	11,204	1	79	10,370	9,952	4	418
F&C	2,809	2,866	-2	-57	2,837	2,894	-2	-57
Trading Income	291	83	251	208	190	115	65	75
Total Revenue	14,320	14,153	1	167	13,397	12,961	3	436
Cost	-4,936	-4,637	6	-299	-5,203	-4,690	11	-513
NLLP	-877	-1,818	-52	941	-1,068	-1,511	-29	443
Pre-tax Profit	8,535	7,384	16	1,151	7,127	6,760	5	366
Banking tax	-891	-919	-3	28	-929	-955	-3	26
Net Income	5,775	4,840	19	936	4,629	4,317	7	312
Net Income (adj.)	5,753	5,094	13	660	4,629	4,317	7	312

NIM ratios (%)	New	Old	%	New	Old	%
Asset yield (%)	6.54	7.46	-0.92	5.05	5.30	-0.25
Funding cost (%)	2.58	3.53	-0.95	1.64	1.95	-0.31
NIM (%)	4.19	4.25	-0.05	3.57	3.54	0.03

Du Pont (%)	New	Old	%	New	Old	%
NII/assets	3.84	3.82	0.03	3.28	3.19	0.09
CoR/assets	-0.30	-0.62	0.32	-0.34	-0.48	0.15
F&C/assets	0.96	0.98	-0.02	0.90	0.93	-0.03
Other rev/assets	0.08	0.01	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.02
Costs/assets	-1.68	-1.58	-0.10	-1.65	-1.50	-0.14
Taxes&other	-0.94	-0.87	-0.07	-0.79	-0.78	-0.01
ROA	1.96	1.74	0.22	1.46	1.38	0.08
Leverage (x)	11.5	12.0	-0.5	10.5	11.2	-0.7
ROE (reported)	22.53	20.86	1.67	15.35	15.52	-0.17

Source: Santander Brokerage Poland estimates

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**Outperform** - Total return 10% above benchmark. Upside of approximately  $\geq 15\%$ .

**Neutral** - Total return 0%-10% above benchmark. Upside of approximately 5%-15%.

**Underperform** - Total return below benchmark. Upside of approximately  $< 5\%$ .

NOTE: The relevant benchmark for European Equities (including CEE Equities) is the 1Y German Bund rate + ERP (5.5%).

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Periodicity: our recommendations/ target prices for each issuer are going to be reviewed at least once a year and whenever market events so warrant.

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In preparing this report Santander Brokerage Poland applied at least one of the following valuation methods: discounted cash flows (DCF), comparative, mid-cycle, dividend discount model (DDM), residual income, warranted equity method (WEV), SOTP valuation, liquidation value.

**The discounted cash flows (DCF) valuation method** is based on expected future discounted cash flows. One advantage of the DCF valuation method is that it takes into account all cash streams reaching Issuer and the cost of money over time. Some disadvantages of the DCF valuation method are that a large number of parameters and assumptions need to be estimated; and the valuation is sensitive to changes in those parameters.

**The comparative valuation method** is based on the economic rule of "one price". Some advantages of the comparative valuation method are that the analyst need only estimate a small number of parameters; the valuation is based on current market conditions; the relatively large accessibility of indicators for companies being compared; and that there is an extensive knowledge of the comparative method among investors. Some disadvantages of valuation by the comparative method are the considerable sensitivity of the results of the valuation on the choice of companies to the comparative group; the method can lead to a simplification of the picture of the company which in turn can lead to omitting certain important factors (e.g. growth dynamics, extra-operational assets, corporate governance, the repeatability of results, differences in applied accounting standards); and the uncertainty of the effectiveness of a market valuation of companies being compared.

**The mid-cycle multiple valuation** is based on long-term average valuation multiples of a sector or a peer group. The methodology aims to calculate a fair, through the cycle value of the company. Among its shortfalls is that at peaks and/or troughs of the cycle, the implied fair value may deviate substantially from the market's value of an analysed stock as well as the methods' reliance on the quality of external data (we usually use Bloomberg or Damodaran databases).

Simplicity and average through-cycle value allowing to capture over- as well as under-valuation of a given stock are the main advantages of this methodology.

**The dividend discount model (DDM) valuation** is based on the net present value of the future dividends that are expected to be paid out by the company. Some advantages of the DDM valuation method are that it takes into account real cash flows to equity-owners and that the methodology is used in respect to companies with long dividend payout history. Main disadvantage of the DDM valuation method is that dividend payouts are based on a large number of parameters and assumptions, including dividend payout ratio.

**Residual income method** is conceptually close to the discounted cash flows method (DCF) for non-financial stocks, the difference being that it is based on expected residual income (returns over COE) rather than expected future cash flows. One advantage of this valuation method is that it captures the excess of profit potentially available to shareholders and the cost of money over time. Main disadvantage of the valuation method is that a large number of parameters and assumptions need to be estimated; and the valuation is sensitive to changes in those parameters.

**The warranted equity method (WEV)** is based on the formula  $P/BV = (\text{two year forward ROE less sustainable growth rate}) / (\text{Cost of equity less sustainable growth rate})$  which allows estimating a fair value (FV) of a given stock in two years' time. Subsequently the FV is discounted back to today. The main advantage of the WEV method is that it is a transparent one and based on relatively short term forecasts, hence substantially reducing the margin of forecasting error. The main disadvantage in our view is that the model is based on the principle that stock price should converge towards its fair value implied by company's ROE and COE.

**SOTP valuation** - different assets of a company are being valued according to different valuation methods, and the sum of these valuations represents the final valuation of the company. SOTP valuation advantages / disadvantages are identical to advantages and disadvantages of the specific valuation methods used.

**Liquidation value method** - liquidation value is the estimated amount of money that an asset or company could be quickly sold for, such as if it were to go out of business. Then, the estimated assets value is adjusted for liabilities and liquidation expenses. One advantage of this valuation method is its simplicity. This method does not account for intangible assets as goodwill, which is the main disadvantage.

In the opinion of Santander Brokerage Poland, this report has been prepared with all due diligence and excludes any conflict of interests which could influence its content. In Santander Bank Polska there are implemented internal regulations, which are designed to prevent conflicts of interest concerning recommendations. Physical and logic barriers are established, and the principles of documentation adequate to the type of Santander Bank Polska operations are implemented. Additionally, Santander Bank Polska introduced a number of obligations and restrictions relating to the protection of confidential information flow between organizational units.

The date and time on the first page of this report indicates the date of the production of the recommendation, and the dissemination of the recommendation takes place on the same day before the start of the session.

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