

CEE Equity Research

Banks Poland

8 March 2024, 08:00 CET

Bonanza to last longer?

Outperform, TP up to PLN67.0 from PLN61.0

PKO BP, just like the entire sector, is benefiting from the strong environment. With this report we are revising up our 2024-2025 EPS assumptions by 22%/23% respectively (comparing to Nov 30th, 2023 update). We leave our assumption for PKO terminal ROE unchanged at 16.8% (well below 2023 adjusted ROE of 26.8%). We also see the dividend stream stronger than before and expect double digit dividend yields from 2024 onwards.

Higher earnings to come from higher NII? To our surprise polish banks managed to increase NIM despite 2023 100 bps rate cut that took place in Sep/Oct last year. With this report we are postponing our assumption for rate cuts (from mid'24 to beginning of 2025).

Cost of hedging is evaporating faster than we assumed. 4Q23 cost of hedging was at PLN658mn – it should go to zero in two years once the IRS portfolio expires. Such decrease should boost PKO NII performance vs peers.

Higher dividends to come? We assume PKO to pay another DPS of PLN2.53 this year, on top of PLN1.28 already paid in Jan'24. The nearest dividend yield is lower than at peers because of high (PLN5.4bn CHF provisions booked during 2023). There is yet additional upside to PKO dividends coming from PLN10.8bn undivided profits from previous years, we expect newsflow on additional dividends once the new management board discusses possibilities with the PFSA.

2024E PLN2.5bn one-offs? We assume PLN700mn cost of moratoria in 2Q24 and PLN1.8bn of CHF provisions (100% coverage).

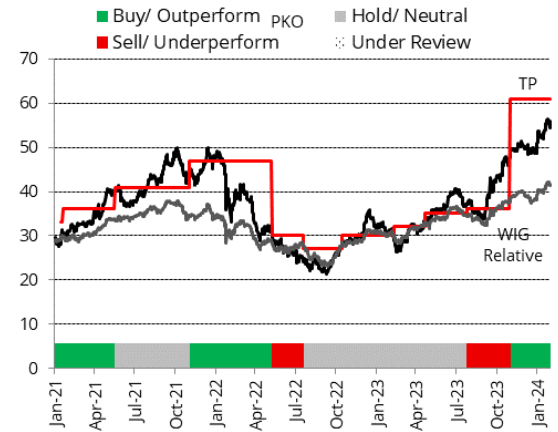
Valuation and risk. We set our Dec'24 TP at PLN67.0 that is a weighted average of DDM pointing to a valuation of PLN63.8 and a comparative valuation pointing to PLN73.0 (all per share) reduced by PLN1.4 related to the anticipated further cost of the CHF portfolio. We note risks related to governance, macro, regulations, CHF-mortgages, dividends and equity flows.

Fig. 1. PKO BP: Financial summary

PLNm, Year to Dec	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
P/E (adjusted)	11.2x	11.4x	6.4x	5.9x	6.0x
P/E (reported)	11.2x	11.4x	12.0x	7.1x	6.0x
P/BV	1.45x	1.07x	1.48x	1.31x	1.18x
Dividend Yield	6.0%	2.4%	4.7%	10.5%	12.5%
EPS (PLN)	3.90	2.67	8.34	9.12	8.93
DPS (PLN)	1.83	1.28	2.53	5.63	6.70
BVPS (PLN)	30.2	28.4	36.2	40.8	45.2
Net Income (adj. PLN mn)	4,874	3,333	10,421	11,405	11,163
Net Income (PLN mn)	4,874	3,333	5,594	9,380	11,163

Source: Company data, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates

Recommendation	Outperform
Dec'24 Target Price (PLN)	67.0
Current price (PLN, 7 Mar 2024)	53.48
Market cap. (PLNbn)	66.9
Avg. daily turnover (PLNm)	142.8
Number of shares (mn)	1,250
Previous report issued on Nov 30, 2023 with:	
Recommendation	Outperform
TP (PLN, Dec'24)	61



The chart measures performance against the WIG index.

Main shareholders	% of votes
Republic of Poland Ministry of State Treasury	29.43%
NN OFE	9.25%
Allianz OFE	8.14%

Source: Stooq.pl, Santander Brokerage Poland

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Fig. 2. Valuation summary (PLN/share)

Recommendation	Outperform	DDM valuation (PLN/share)	63.8	Comp. Valuation PLN/share	73.0
Dec'24 Target Price (PLN)	67.00				
Current price (PLN)	53.48	Discounted dividends (PLN/share)	13.7	Net Income (PLN mn, next 12 months)	11,405
Prospective upside (%)	25	Terminal value (PLN/share)	50.1	Applied P/E (x)	8.0
		Terminal ROE (%)	16.80	P/E peers (x)	8.0
		g (%)	3.00		
		CoE (%)	11.50	CHF impact	-1.4
		RFR (%)	11.50		
		Beta (x)	1.10		
		ERP (%)	5.0		

*Our Target Price is calculated as rounded average of DDM Valuation (50% weight) and Comp (50% weight) less estimated impact of CHF-mortgages.

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

ROE->	12.8%	14.8%	16.8%	18.8%	20.8%
1.0%	48.4	54.3	60.1	66.0	71.9
2.0%	48.8	55.3	61.8	68.3	74.8
g 3.0%	49.3	56.6	63.8	71.1	78.3
4.0%	49.9	58.1	66.4	74.6	82.8
5.0%	50.7	60.2	69.7	79.2	88.7

Fig. 4. DDM Valuation sensitivity (PLN/share)

ERP->	3.0%	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	7.0%
5.0%	102.9	84.9	72.3	63.0	55.8
5.5%	93.9	78.7	67.8	59.5	53.1
RFR 6.0%	86.4	73.4	63.8	56.5	50.7
6.5%	80.0	68.7	60.3	53.7	48.5
7.0%	74.5	64.7	57.1	51.2	46.5

Fig. 5. Our forecast vs Bloomberg consensus

	Bloomberg consensus			Our assumptions vs cons.		
	2024E	2025E	2026E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net income	8,261	8,185	8,583	14%	36%	n.a.
DPS (PLN)	2.93	4.04	4.72	-14%	39%	n.a.
ROE (%)	15.0	16.6	16.1	4.5 pp	4.2 pp	n.a.

Fig. 6. Comps Valuation sensitivity (PLN/share)

Fair P/E (x)	1.0x	2.0x	3.0x	8.0x	8.0x	12.0x
vs. peers (%)	-88	-75	-63	0	0	50
Sensitivity	9.1	18.2	27.4	73.0	73.0	109.5

Fig. 7. Ratios, Assumptions and Forecasts

P&L (PLN mn)	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
NII	9,882	14,924	18,318	20,252	20,575
F&C	4,431	4,951	5,429	5,550	5,669
Trading Income	718	310	337	194	192
Total Revenue	15,079	20,383	24,224	26,156	26,596
Cost	-6,174	-7,850	-7,635	-8,442	-8,853
NLLP	-1,345	-1,564	-1,373	-1,518	-1,620
one-offs	0	-5,025	-5,430	-2,500	0
Pre-tax Profit	7,591	6,015	9,885	13,736	16,164
Banking tax	-1,079	-1,266	-1,231	-1,334	-1,444
Net Income	4,874	3,333	5,594	9,380	11,163
Net Income (adj.)	4,874	3,333	10,421	11,405	11,163

PLN bn	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Total Assets	422	435	502	531	572
Bonds	135	136	197	212	231
Loans	238	236	246	260	282
Loans growth (%)	3	-1	4	6	8
Deposits	322	340	399	423	458
Equity	38	35	45	51	56
Mortgage loans	121	111	115	123	133
CHF mortgages	20	17	13	11	9
Other retail loans	31	32	35	36	38
Corporate loans	86	98	106	111	123

NIM ratios (%)	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Asset yield (%)	2.79	4.93	6.23	5.86	5.37
Funding cost (%)	0.22	1.41	2.42	2.03	1.71
NIM (%)	2.60	3.74	4.17	4.13	3.92

Risk ratios (%)	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Stage 3 ratio (%)	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5
Stage 3 coverage (%)	61.3	61.8	59.5	59.5	59.5
Cost of risk (%)	0.57	0.66	0.57	0.60	0.60

Du Pont (%)	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
NII/assets	2.45	3.48	3.91	3.92	3.73
CoR/assets	-0.33	-0.37	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29
F&C/assets	1.10	1.16	1.16	1.08	1.03
Other rev/assets	0.20	0.14	0.12	0.08	0.07
Costs/assets	-1.53	-1.83	-1.63	-1.64	-1.61
Taxes&other/assets	-0.67	-1.80	-2.08	-1.33	-0.91
ROA	1.21	0.78	1.19	1.82	2.02
Leverage (x)	10.4	11.7	11.6	10.7	10.3
ROE (reported)	12.55	9.11	13.87	19.50	20.78

Capital & dividends	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Tier-1 (PLN bn)	38.2	40.8	42.5	44.9	47.3
Tier-2 (PLN bn)	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
TCR (PLN bn)	17.5	17.4	18.1	19.2	20.8
RWA (PLN mn)	202.3	200.8	209.0	221.4	240.0
CT1 ratio (%)	17.5	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.2
CAR ratio (%)	18.7	20.0	20.0	19.9	19.3
Div. payout (%)	46.9	0.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
Dividend (PLN mn)	0	2,288	1,600	3,163	7,035
No. of shares (mn)	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250

Source for all tables: Company data, Bloomberg, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates

NOTE: historical valuation ratios based on eoy prices.

Quarterly Earnings summary

PKO BP reported 4Q23 net income of PLN680mn, 1% above consensus. The bottom line was close to expectations but:

- NII improved 9% q/q (vs 2% improvement on the market) and was 5% stronger than consensus. The cost of hedging declined by PLN268mn q/q, more than we expected – from PLN926mn in 3Q23 to PLN658mn in 4Q23.
- OpEx came 7% stronger than consensus. Personnel cost increase 19% q/q, 27% y/y which was stronger than what we assumed.
- NLLP came 30% stronger than consensus and 18% stronger than our assumption
- CHF provisions were in line with profit warning at PLN1,989mn

Fig. 8. Results review (year to December)

PKO BP (PLN mn)	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	q/q	y/y	4Q23E	vs. E	cons.	vs. cons.
Net Interest Income	4,158	4,187	4,392	4,662	5,077	9	22	4,870	4	4,822	5
Fees & commissions	1,241	1,269	1,298	1,349	1,421	5	15	1,389	2	1,241	14
Trading Income	66	56	23	98	160	63	142	49	229		
Other (Net)	41	20	65	50	5	-90	-88	40	-88		
Total Revenue	5,506	5,532	5,778	6,159	6,663	8	21	6,348	5	6,335	5
Personnel Costs	-947	-942	-989	-1,008	-1,201	19	27	-1,117	7		
General Expenses	-538	-786	-494	-502	-626	25	16	-567	10		
D&A	-267	-257	-263	-280	-287	2	7	-310	-7		
Operating Expenses	-1,752	-1,985	-1,746	-1,790	-2,114	18	21	-1,995	6	-1,978	7
Operating Income	3,754	3,547	4,032	4,369	4,549	4	21	4,353	5		
Net Loan Loss Provisions	-374	-339	-226	-276	-532	93	42	-450	18	-408	30
Other (Net)	-738	-967	-2,474	0	-1,989		169	-1,988		-1,988	0
Associate income	10	23	13	46	17	-63	70	46	-63		
Pre-tax Profit	2,652	2,264	1,345	4,139	2,045	-51	-23	1,961	4		
Corporate Income Tax	-604	-512	-445	-1,057	-1,043	-1	73	-1,000	4		
Minority interests	-2	1	-2	1	-3	-400	50	0			
Banking tax'	-312	-299	-311	-302	-319	6	2	-303	5		
Net Income	1,732	1,454	587	2,781	680	-76	-61	658	3	672	1
NI excl. one-offs	1,732	2,421	2,550	2,781	2,669	-4	54	2,646	1		

Balance Sheet (PLN bn)	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23E	3Q23	4Q23	q/q	y/y	4Q23E	vs. E
Net client lending	231.7	237.5	236.1	239.7	245.8	3	6	240.0	2
Bonds	135.6	146.0	163.5	175.7	197.5	12	46	177.1	12
Customer deposits	339.6	349.7	366.1	376.5	399.2	6	18	377.3	6
Total assets	430.7	444.0	460.8	472.9	501.5	6	16	475.2	6
Equity ex minorities	35.4	39.3	41.1	45.4	45.2	0	28	46.8	-3

Key Ratios (%)	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23E	3Q23	4Q23	q/q	y/y	4Q23E	vs. E
Net Interest Margin	4.16	4.13	4.15	4.26	4.40	14 bp	173 bps	4.35	6 bp
Cost to Income	-32	-36	-30	-29	-32	-3 pp	0 pp	-31	0 pp
Cost of risk [bps]	-64	-58	-42	-46	-88	-41 bp	-24 bps	-75	-13 bp
Loans to deposits ratio	68	68	68	64	62	-2 pp	-7 pp	64	-2 pp
ROE	20.6	15.6	5.3	25.7	6.0	-19.7 pp	-14.6 pp	5.7	0.3 pp

Source: Company data, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates.

Forecast changes

Fig. 9. PKO – Forecast changes – P&L

P&L (PLN mn)	2023				2024E				2025E			
	New	Old	%	PLN mn	New	Old	%	PLN mn	New	Old	%	PLN mn
NII	18,318	17,871	3	447	20,252	18,072	12	2,180	20,575	18,316	12	2,259
F&C	5,429	4,907	11	522	5,550	5,029	10	521	5,669	5,155	10	514
Trading Income	337	226	49	111	194	194	0	0	192	192	0	0
Total Revenue	24,224	22,899	6	1,325	26,156	23,170	13	2,986	26,596	23,531	13	3,065
Cost	-7,635	-7,486	2	-149	-8,442	-8,189	3	-253	-8,853	-8,587	3	-266
NLLP	-1,373	-1,230	12	-143	-1,518	-1,508	1	-10	-1,620	-1,610	1	-10
One-offs	-5,430	-4,041	34	-1,389	-2,500	-1,700		-800	0	0		0
Pre-tax Profit	9,885	10,271	-4	-386	13,736	11,813	16	1,923	16,164	13,374	21	2,790
Banking tax	-1,231	-1,215	1	-16	-1,334	-1,268	5	-66	-1,444	-1,377	5	-67
Net Income	5,594	6,370	-12	-776	9,380	7,946	18	1,434	11,163	9,055	23	2,108
Net Income (adj.)	10,421	10,315	1	106	11,405	9,323	22	2,082	11,163	9,055	23	2,108

NIM ratios (%)	New	Old	%	New	Old	%	New	Old	%
Asset yield (%)	6.23	6.29	-0.06	5.86	5.59	0.27	5.37	5.10	0.27
Funding cost (%)	2.42	2.46	-0.04	2.03	1.98	0.05	1.71	1.66	0.05
NIM (%)	4.17	4.19	-0.02	4.13	3.90	0.23	3.92	3.69	0.23

Source: Company data, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates

Fig. 8. PKO – Forecast changes – Balance sheet

PLN bn	2023				2024E				2025E			
	New	Old	%	PLN bn	New	Old	%	PLN bn	New	Old	%	PLN bn
Total Assets	501.5	475.0	6	27	530.9	503.0	6	28	571.9	542.0	6	30
Bonds	197.5	177.0	12	20	212.3	190.0	12	22	231.4	207.0	12	24
Loans	245.8	241.0	2	5	260.3	255.0	2	5	282.2	277.0	2	5
Loans growth (%)	4	2			6	6			8	9		
Deposits	399.2	377.0	6	22	422.8	400.0	6	23	458.3	435.0	5	23
Equity	45.2	47.0	-4	-2	51.0	52.0	-2	-1	56.5	56.0	1	0
Mortgage loans	114.9	110.0	4	5	123.0	118.0	4	5	132.6	128.0	4	5
CHF mortgages	13.1	13.1	0	0	10.7	10.7	0	0	8.7	8.7	0	0
Other retail loans	35.0	35.0	0	0	36.4	35.5	2	1	37.9	38.0	0	0
Corporate loans	106.1	106.0	0	0	111.4	111.0	0	0	122.6	122.0	0	1

Source: Company data, Santander Brokerage Poland estimates

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Ratings definitions:

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%).

The definition of ratings are indicative. Recommendations may differ from these guidelines when justified due to the market factors, industry trends, company specific event, etc. In such cases, a pertinent clarification for the discrepancy is included in the report.

Target prices set from January to June are for December 31st of the current year. Target prices set from July to December are for December 31st of the following year. Periodicity: our recommendations/ target prices for each issuer are going to be reviewed at least once a year and whenever market events so warrant.

In the Technical Analysis reports (TA reports), Santander Brokerage Poland does not apply direct investment ratings, and all opinions and elements of analysts' assessment are included in a descriptive form in the study itself.

The period of validity of the TA report is a maximum of 30 days, while the publication of a new TA report for a given financial instrument means that the previously published study is no longer valid.

Due to the short time horizon of the Technical Analysis reports, Santander Brokerage Poland is not going to update them on a regular basis.

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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