## **S&P Global**

Ratings

Corporate Results Roundup Q2 2024

Slow recovery continues, still reliant on North America and the consumer

#### **Gareth Williams**

London Head of Corporate Credit Research gareth.williams@spglobal.com

#### **Gregg Lemos-Stein**

New York Chief Analytical Officer, Corporate Ratings gregg.lemos-stein@spglobal.com

August 5, 2024



# **Contents**

Summary		Interest cover	18	Sales and EBITDA growth	3
Key takeaways from results so far	3	Cash and equivalents/total assets	19	Industry growth - quarterly	30
Global		Cash and equivalents/total assets by region	20	Industry growth – annual	3
Which companies have reported		Shareholder returns	21	Results versus market expectations by industry	38
Share of companies reported by geography, industry and ratings	5	Capital expenditure growth		Asia-Pacific	
Number of companies reported by geography and rating	6	Capital expenditure growth	22	Sales and EBITDA growth	40
Number of companies reported by industry	7	Capital expenditure growth by region	23	Latin America	
Sales and EBITDA growth		Results versus market expectations (Sales, EBITDA)		Sales and EBITDA growth	4:
Global sales and EBITDA growth	8	Results versus market expectations	24		
Global sales and EBITDA growth ex oil and mining	9	Results versus market expectations by ratings category	25		
Sales and EBITDA growth by region	10	Results versus market expectations by industry	26		
Global sales and EBITDA growth by industry — quarterly	11	Transcript and presentation sentiment trends			
Global sales and EBITDA growth by industry - annual	12	Transcript sentiment by region, rating, and industry	27		
Profit margins		Transcript sentiment for North American and European industry	28		
EBITDA margin by region	13	North America			
EBITDA margin by industry	14	Sales and EBITDA growth	30		
Leverage, interest, cash, shareholder returns		Industry growth - quarterly	31		
Debt/EBITDA- IG/SG and by industry	15	Industry growth - annual	32		
Cash interest paid	16	Results versus market expectations by industry	33		
Cash interest naid by region	17	Furone			



# Corporate results Q2 2024 | Key takeaways from results so far

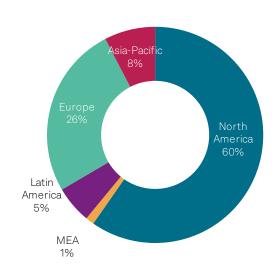
- The global Q2 2024 results season for rated nonfinancial corporates is nearly halfway through, with 46% of all results in, 53% for investment-grade (IG), and 36% for speculative-grade (SG). The North America season is furthest along with 57% of companies having reported, closely followed by Europe (55%), then Latin America (31%) and Asia-Pacific (21%). Conclusions necessarily remain partial at this stage in the season.
- The slow recovery from last year's earnings downturn continues. Measured at an annual rate, global sales for companies rated by S&P Global Ratings that report quarterly are essentially flat (-0.1%) and EBITDA up 2.0%, based on results to date. Compared with the same quarter a year ago, improvement is more visible, with sales up 1.4% --the first uptick since Q4 2022--and EBITDA is up 6.1%.
- Growth and margin improvement continues to be stronger if commodity sectors are excluded. On that basis, EBITDA is up 7.5% at an annual rate, on revenue growth of 1.6%, a fourth consecutive quarter of growth and rising steadily. Margin trends are split evenly, with half of sectors expanding margins--led by utilities, media, and technology-and half seeing contraction, most notably in transportation, oil and gas, and paper and packaging.
- Cash flow pressure from higher interest payments is easing, with annual cash interest paid currently up 15% in Q2 versus 21% in Q1. Companies appear to be moderating their capital expenditure growth, with capex up 5.6% versus 7.2% last quarter. Shareholder returns are increasingly slowly again, with dividends up 1% and share buyback growth turning positive again (6.7%) after five negative quarters.
- **Transcript sentiment analysis** points to continuing relative optimism in the U.S. and in consumer-linked sectors, and relative pessimism in Asia-Pacific and heavy-industry sectors.
- From results so far, it's difficult to point to any harbingers of renewed broad-based deterioration. Earnings recovery continues albeit at a modest pace and with a clear reliance on North America and the consumer.

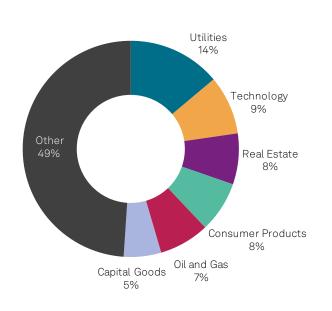
# Global

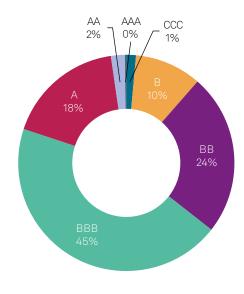
# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Companies reported so far by geography industry and ratings group, Q2 2024

Share of reported results by geography Share of reported results by industry

Share of reported results by rating





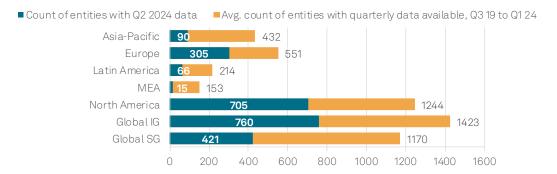


Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Based on 1,181 companies that have reported results to date.

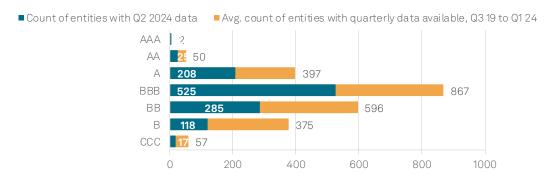


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Number of companies reported so far by geography and ratings, Q2 2024

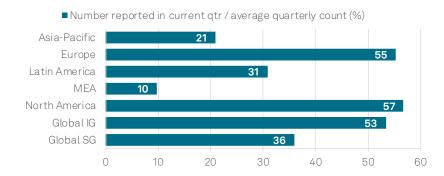
#### Number of reported results by geography



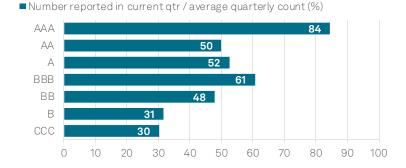
#### Number of reported results by rating



#### Reported results as percent of average quarterly total



#### Reported results as percent of average quarterly total



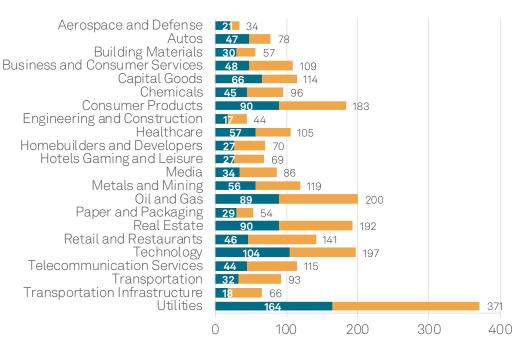
Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Average quarterly count measured from Q3 2019 to Q2 2024.



# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Number of companies reported so far by industry, Q2 2024

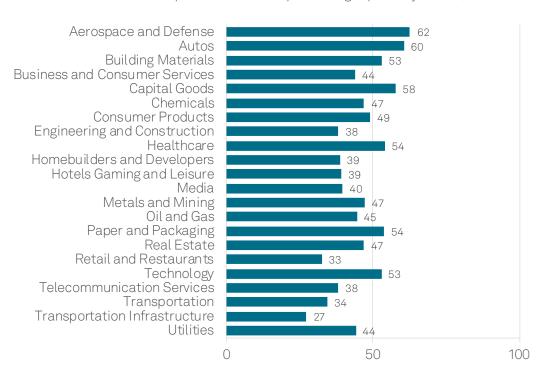
#### Number of reported results by industry

- Count of entities with Q2 2024 data
- Avg. count of entities with quarterly data available, Q3 19 to Q1 24



#### Reported results by industry as percent of average total

■ Number reported in current qtr / average quarterly count (%)

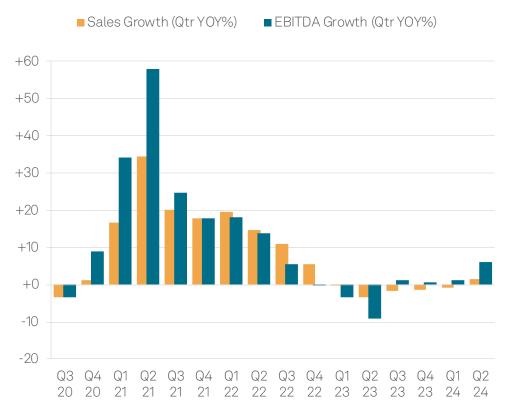


Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Average quarterly count measured from Q2 2019 to Q2 2024.



# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Sales and EBITDA growth\*

#### Global | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### Global | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

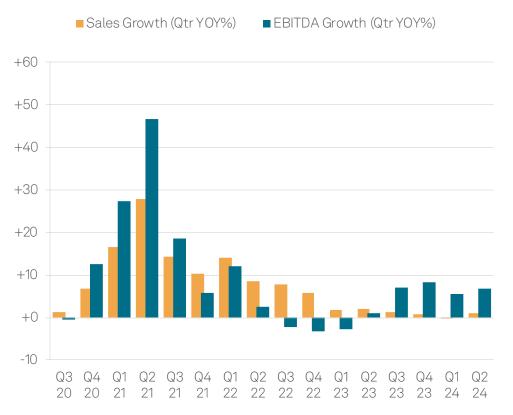


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

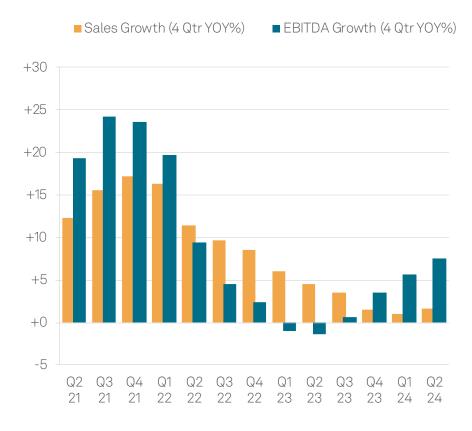


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Sales and EBITDA growth\*

#### Global Ex Oil and Mining | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### Global Ex Oil and Mining | Trailing 4 Qtr, Year-Over-Year

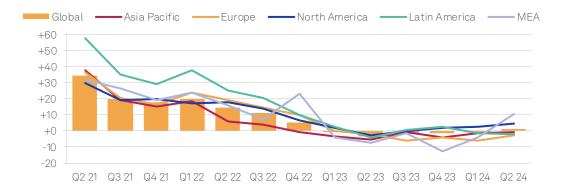


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

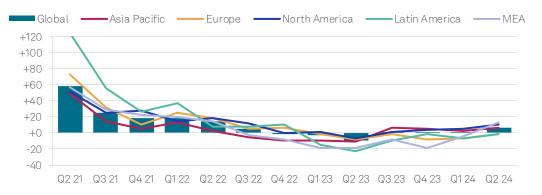


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Sales and EBITDA growth by region\*

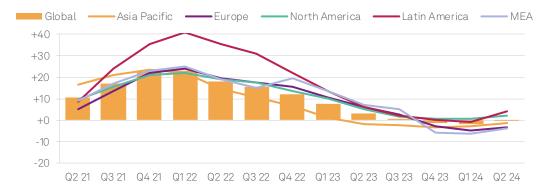
#### Sales Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### EBITDA Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### Sales Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year



#### EBITDA Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

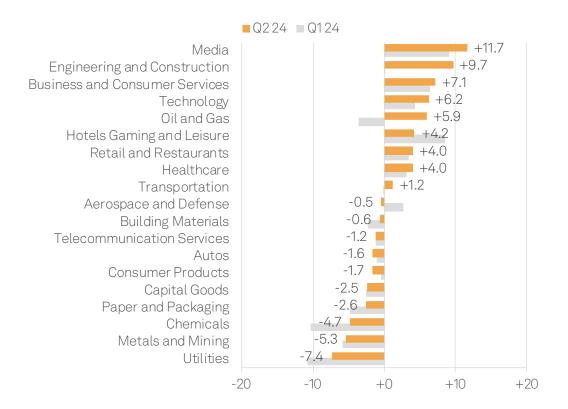


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.



# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Global industry growth\*

#### Sales Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### EBITDA Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results,

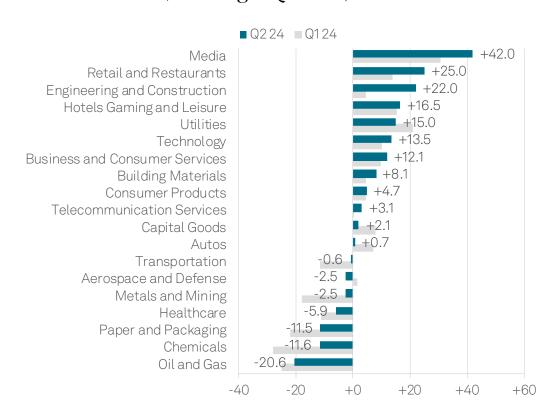


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Global industry growth\*

#### Sales Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

#### Q224 Q124 +14.6 Media +10.9 Engineering and Construction Hotels Gaming and Leisure Business and Consumer Services +6.0 Retail and Restaurants +5.3 Aerospace and Defense +4.0 Autos +2.6Technology +2.4Transportation +2.0 Telecommunication Services +1.2 Healthcare +0.2Consumer Products +0.1Capital Goods +0.1 **Building Materials** Metals and Mining -4.7 -5.6 Paper and Packaging -8.0 Chemicals -8.3 Oil and Gas Utilities -20 -10 +10+20

#### EBITDA Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

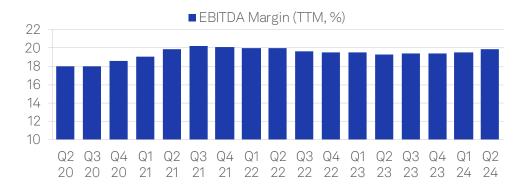


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results,

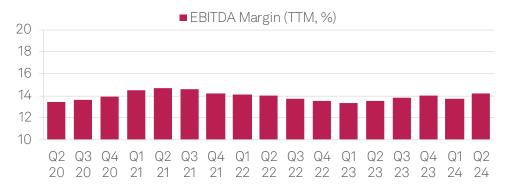


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | EBITDA margin by region\*

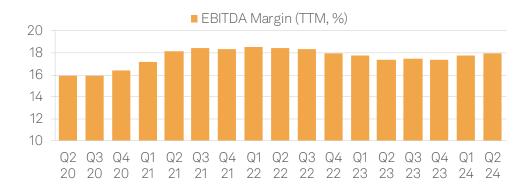
#### North America | EBITDA Margin Trailing 12 Month



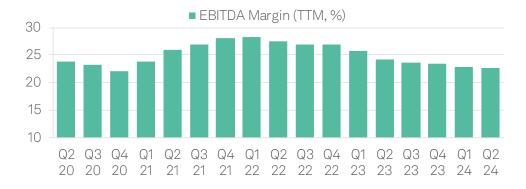
#### Asia Pacific | EBITDA Margin Trailing 12 Month



#### Europe | EBITDA Margin Trailing 12 Month



#### Latin America | EBITDA Margin Trailing 12 Month

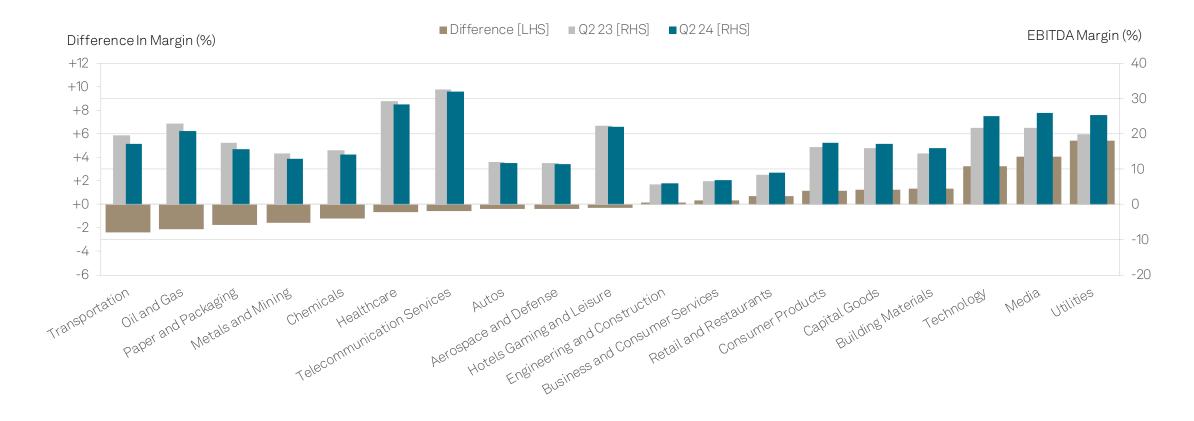


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.



# Rated nonfinancial corporates | EBITDA margin by industry\*

EBITDA Margin Trailing 12 Month – Q2 2024 versus Q1 2023

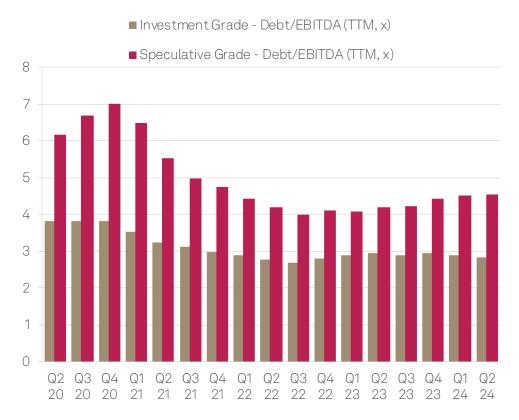


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

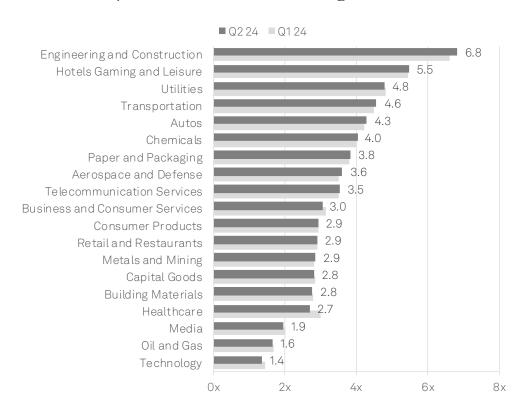


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Debt/EBITDA\*

#### Global Debt/EBITDA | Trailing 12 Month



#### Global Industry Debt/EBITDA | Trailing 12 Month

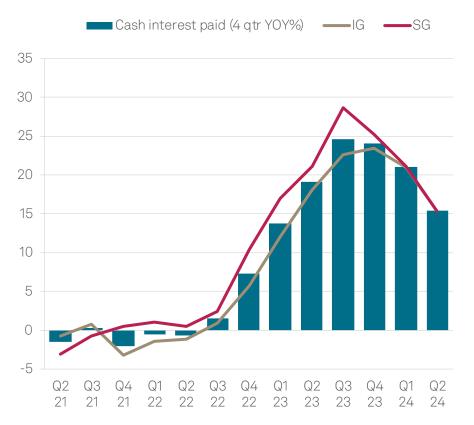


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

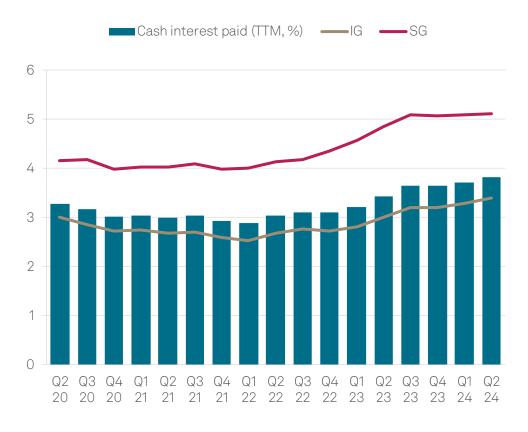


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Cash interest paid\*

#### Global | Cash Interest Paid, Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



#### Global | Cash Interest Paid/Total Debt, Trailing 12 Month



<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter growth rates only include companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.



# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Cash interest paid by region \*

#### North America | Cash Interest Paid, Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



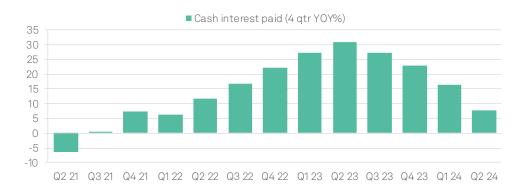
# Europe | Cash Interest Paid, Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



#### Asia Pacific | Cash Interest Paid, Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



#### Latin America | Cash Interest Paid, Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

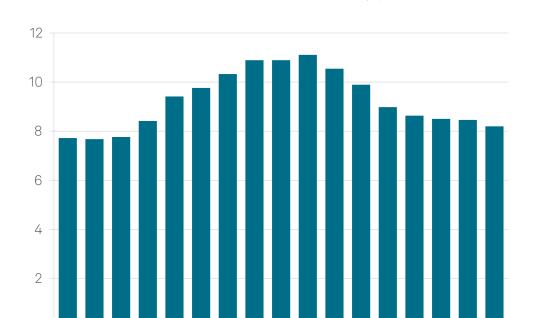


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Interest coverage\*

#### Global | EBITDA/Interest Expense, Trailing 12 Month



#### Global | EBITDA/Cash Interest Paid, Trailing 12 Month



Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1

20 20 20 21 21 21 21 22 22 22 23 23 23 23 24 24

Q2 Q3 Q4

Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1

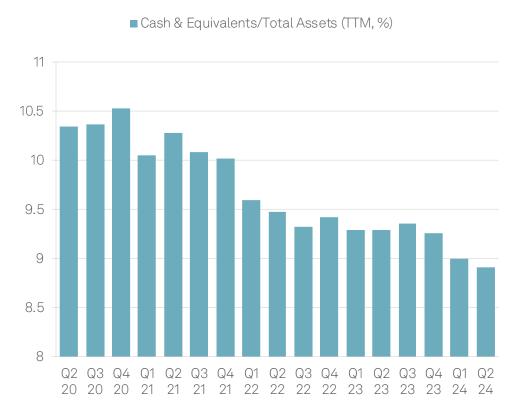
■ EBITDA/Cash Interest Paid (TTM, x)

<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

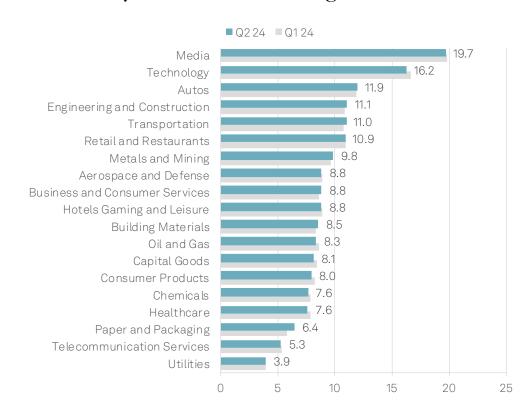


## Rated nonfinancial corporates | Cash and equivalents/total assets\*

#### Global Cash/Assets | Trailing 12 Month



#### Global Industry Cash/Assets | Trailing 12 Month

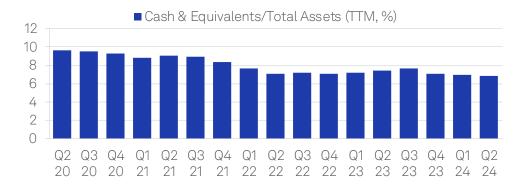


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

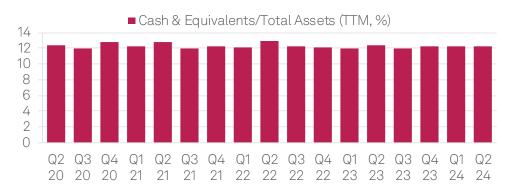


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Cash and equivalents/total assets by region\*

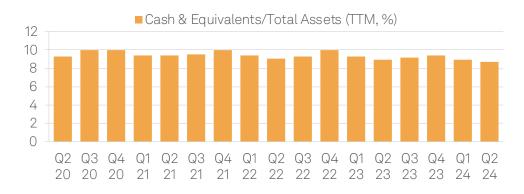
#### North America | Cash/total assets, trailing 12 month



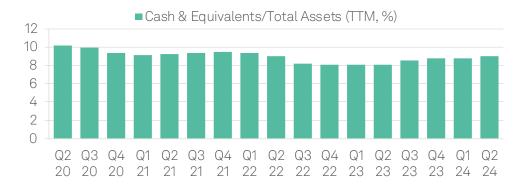
#### Asia Pacific | Cash/total assets, trailing 12 month



#### Europe | Cash/total assets, trailing 12 month



#### Latin America | Cash/total assets, trailing 12 month

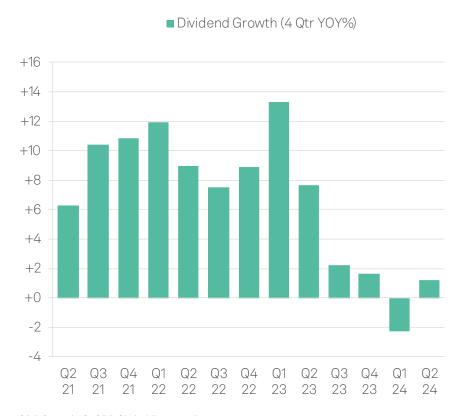


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

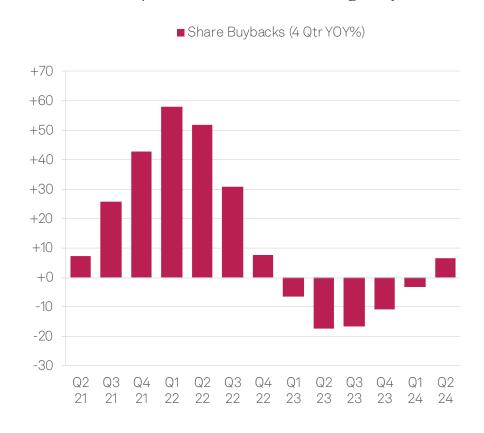


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Shareholder returns\*

#### Global Dividend Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



#### Global Share Buyback Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



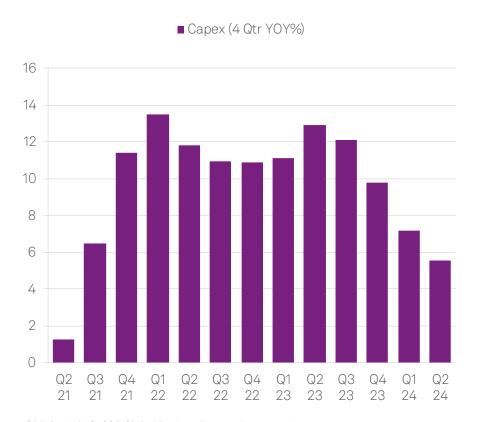
<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

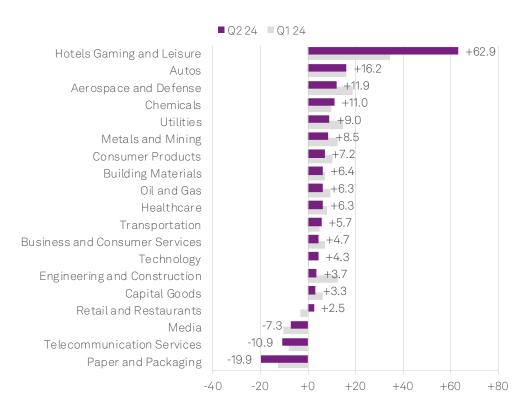


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Capital expenditure growth\*

#### Global Capex Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

#### Global Industry Capex Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, YOY



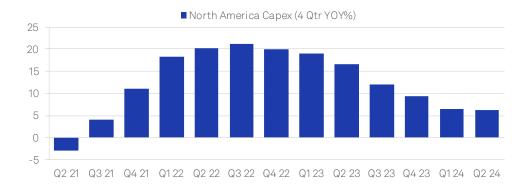


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

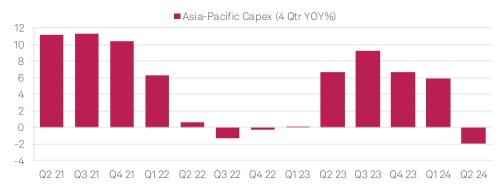


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Capital expenditure growth by region\*

#### North America | Capex Growth, 4 Qtr YOY%



#### Asia Pacific | Capex Growth, 4 Qtr YOY%



#### Europe | Capex Growth, 4 Qtr YOY%



#### Latin America | Capex Growth, 4 Qtr YOY%

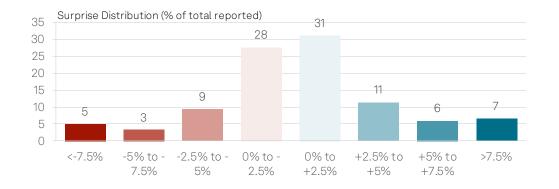


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

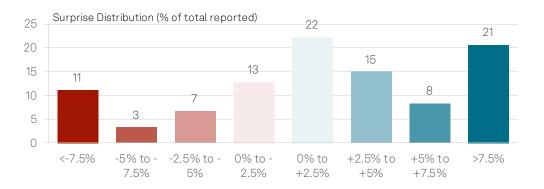


## Rated nonfinancial corporates | Results versus market expectations

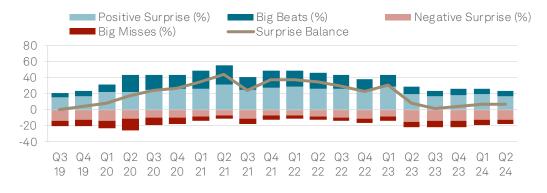
#### "Surprise" versus consensus - Sales, Q2 2024



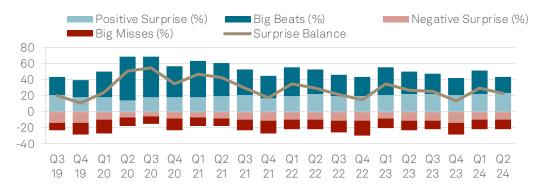
#### "Surprise" versus consensus - EBITDA, Q2 2024



#### Evolution of "surprise" versus consensus - Sales



#### Evolution of "surprise" versus consensus - EBITDA



Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. "Surprise" measures the percentage difference between actual results and the Capital IQ consensus estimate prior to reporting. "Surprise Balance" refers to difference between percentage of entities reporting results more than 2.5% better than the S&P Capital IQ market consensus less the percentage reporting results more than 2.5% worse than the consensus. Big beats or misses are those where the percentage difference to consensus exceeds 7.5%.

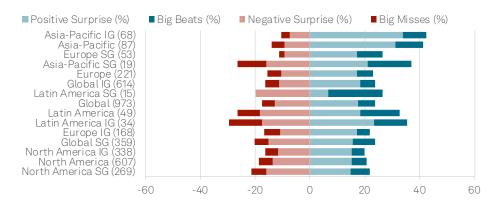


### Rated nonfinancial corporates | Results versus market expectations by ratings category

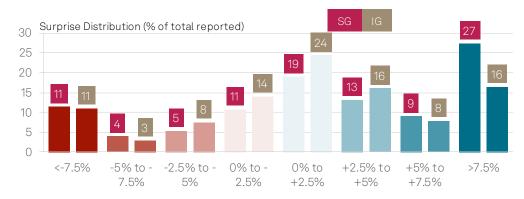
#### Evolution of "surprise" versus consensus - EBITDA



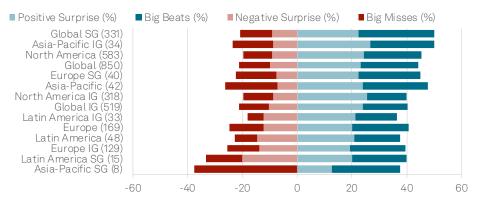
#### "Surprise" by region and ratings category - Sales (Ranked)



#### "Surprise" versus consensus - EBITDA, Q2 2024



#### Surprise" by region and ratings category - EBITDA (Ranked)



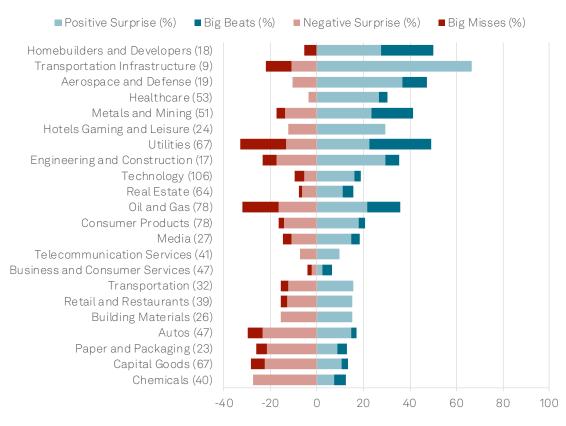
Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Figures in parenthesis show how many entities with Q2 2024 results reported have surprise data available. "Surprise" measures the percentage difference between actual results and the Capital IQ consensus estimate prior to reporting. "Surprise Balance" refers to difference between percentage of entities reporting results more than 2.5% better than the S&P Capital IQ market consensus less the percentage reporting results more than 2.5% worse than the consensus. Big beats or misses are those where the percentage difference to consensus exceeds 7.5%.



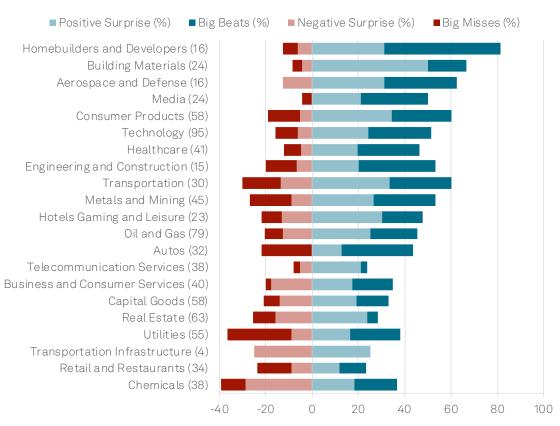
## Rated nonfinancial corporates

# Results versus market expectations by industry

#### "Surprise" by industry - Sales (Ranked)



#### Surprise" by industry - EBITDA (Ranked)



Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Figures in parenthesis show how many entities with Q2 2024 results reported have surprise data available. "Surprise" measures the percentage difference between actual results and the Capital IQ consensus estimate prior to reporting. "Surprise Balance" refers to difference between percentage of entities reporting results more than 2.5% better than the S&P Capital IQ market consensus less the percentage reporting results more than 2.5% worse than the consensus. Big beats or misses are those where the percentage difference to consensus exceeds 7.5%.

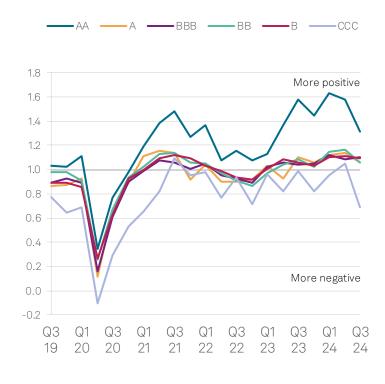
# Rated nonfinancial corporates

# Transcript sentiment by region, rating, and industry

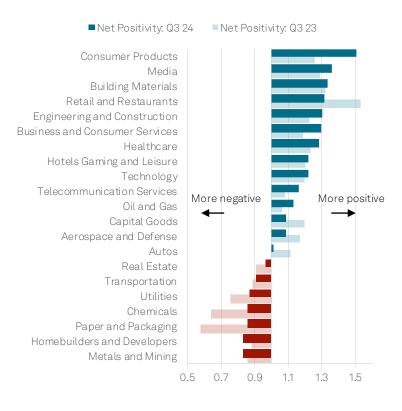
#### Median net positivity score by region

# Asia-Pacific Europe Latin America North America 1.4 1.0 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 0.0 Q3 Q1 Q3 Q1

#### Median net positivity score by rating



#### Median net positivity score by industry



Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro, S&P Global Ratings. Derived from transcripts and investor presentation sentiment analysis. The net positivity score (%) shows the ratio of positive to negative words from the Loughran & McDonald's (LM) Sentiment Word Lists compared to the total number of words in a transcript. Most scores fall between -5% and 5% with higher scores considered favorable. Values refer to earnings call transcripts and investor presentations given in the quarter shown, so refer to earnings for the prior quarter (e.g., Q3 2024 transcripts refer to Q2 2024 results). Data for Q3 2024 contains 940 scores.

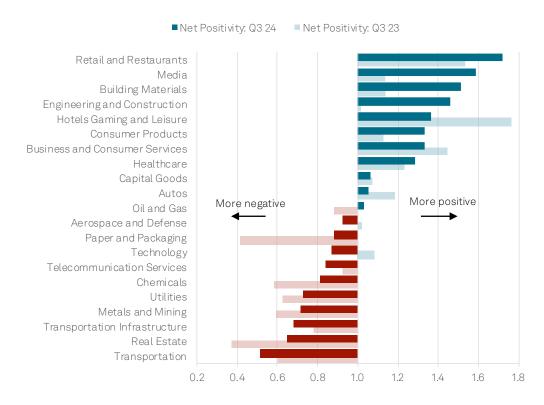


# Rated nonfinancial corporates | Transcript sentiment for North American and European industries

#### North America | Median net positivity score by industry

#### ■ Net Positivity: Q3 24 ■ Net Positivity: Q3 23 Consumer Products Telecommunication Services Media **Building Materials** Technology Healthcare Retail and Restaurants Business and Consumer Services Capital Goods More negative Oil and Gas More positive Aerospace and Defense Hotels Gaming and Leisure Paper and Packaging Autos Transportation Engineering and Construction Utilities Real Estate Chemicals Metals and Mining Homebuilders and Developers 0.6 1.6

#### Europe | Median net positivity score by industry



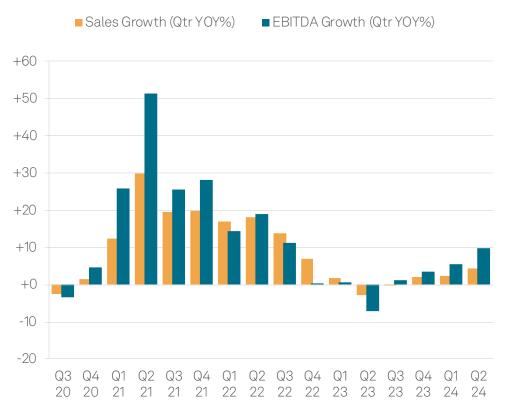
Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro, S&P Global Ratings. Derived from transcripts and investor presentation sentiment analysis. The net positivity score (%) shows the ratio of positive to negative words from the Loughran & McDonald's (LM) Sentiment Word Lists compared to the total number of words in a transcript. Most scores fall between -5% and 5% with higher scores considered favorable. Values refer to earnings call transcripts and investor presentations given in the quarter shown, so refer to earnings for the prior quarter (e.g., Q3 2024 transcripts refer to Q2 2024 results). Data for Q3 2024 contains 940 scores.



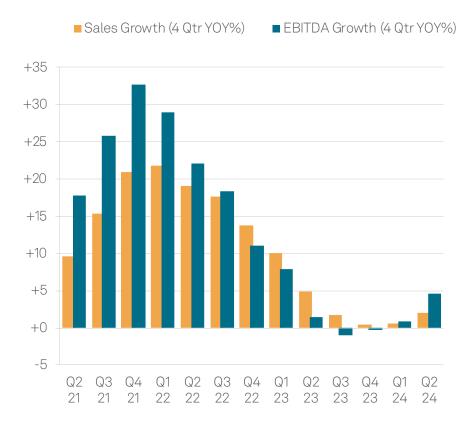
# **North America**

## Rated North American Nonfinancial Corporates | Sales and EBITDA Growth\*

#### North America | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### North America | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

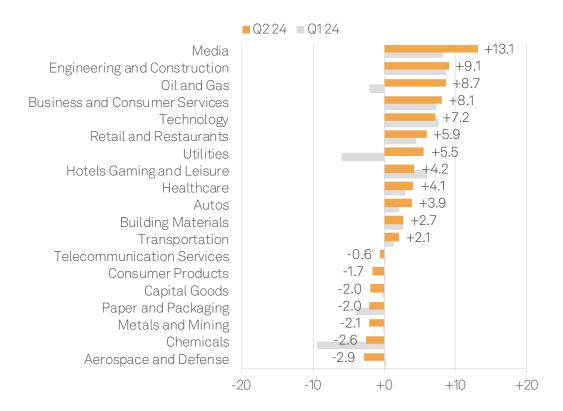


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

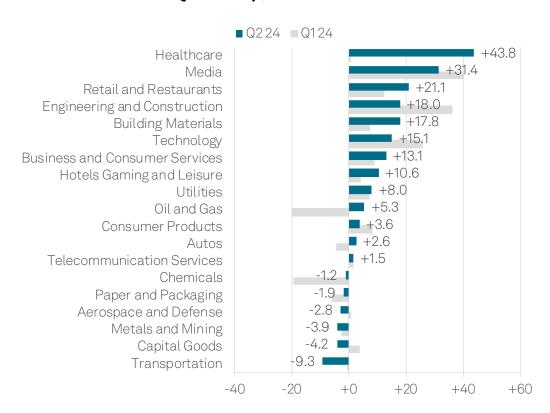


# Rated North America Nonfinancial Corporates | Industry Growth\*

#### Sales Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### EBITDA Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results,

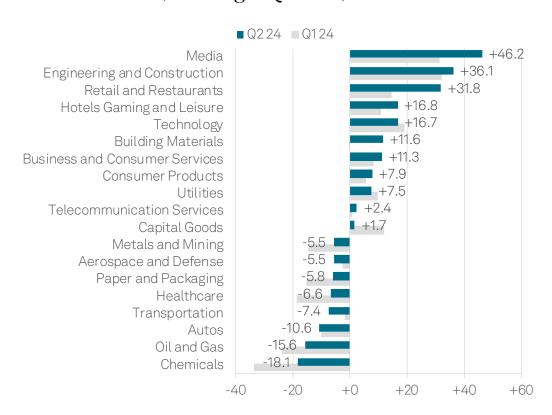


# Rated North America Nonfinancial Corporates | Industry Growth\*

#### Sales Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

#### Q224 Q124 +16.1 Media +12.3 Engineering and Construction Business and Consumer Services +8.1+8.0 Hotels Gaming and Leisure +7.7 Retail and Restaurants +4.6 Autos +4.5 Technology +3.0 Aerospace and Defense +2.6 Capital Goods +0.7 **Building Materials** +0.6 Consumer Products +0.6 Telecommunication Services -0.0 Transportation -0.4 Healthcare -2.6 Metals and Mining -2.6 Utilities Paper and Packaging -4.8 Chemicals -6.4 Oil and Gas -20 -10 +0+10+20

#### EBITDA Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year



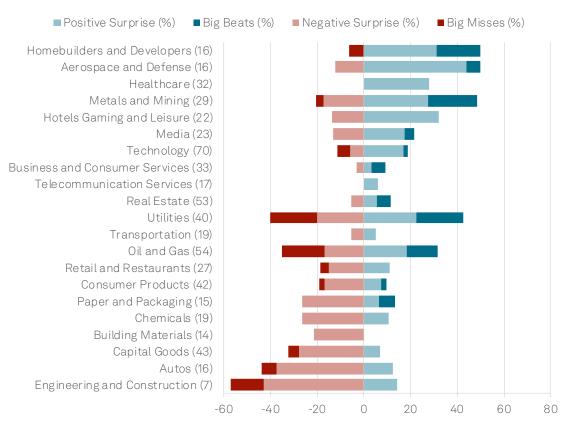
<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results,



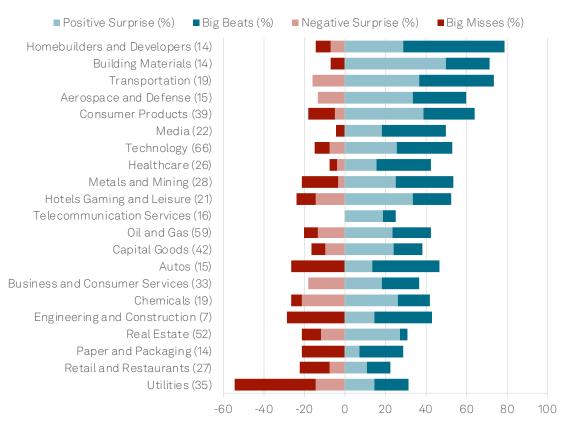
# Rated North American Nonfinancial Corporates

## Results Versus Market Expectations By Industry

#### "Surprise" by industry - Sales (Ranked)



#### Surprise" by industry - EBITDA (Ranked)



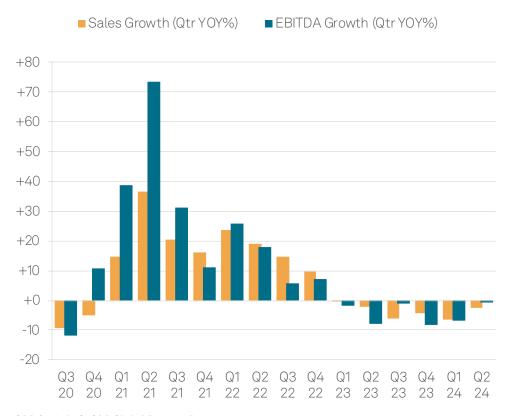
Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Figures in parenthesis show how many entities with Q2 2024 results reported have surprise data available. "Surprise" measures the percentage difference between actual results and the Capital IQ consensus estimate prior to reporting. "Surprise Balance" refers to difference between percentage of entities reporting results more than 2.5% better than the S&P Capital IQ market consensus less the percentage reporting results more than 2.5% worse than the consensus. Big beats or misses are those where the percentage difference to consensus exceeds 7.5%.



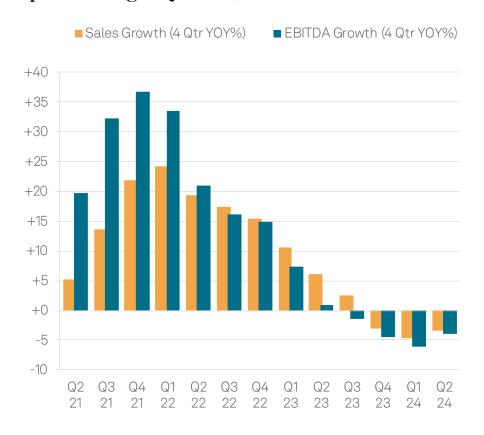
# Europe

## Rated European Nonfinancial Corporates | Sales and EBITDA Growth\*

#### Europe | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### Europe | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year

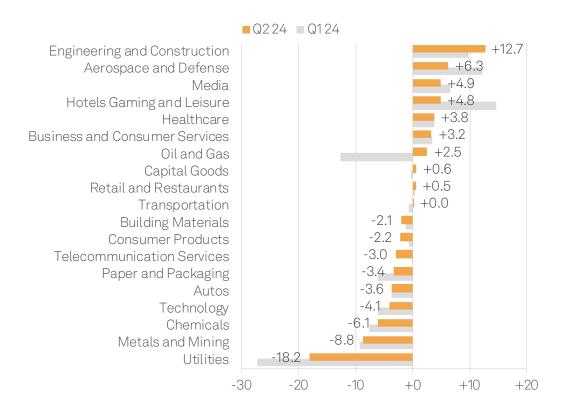


<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.

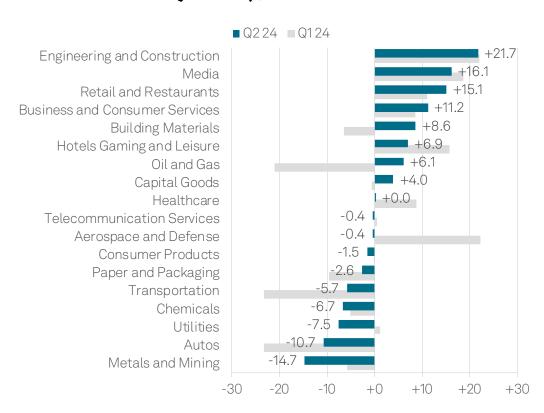


# Rated European Nonfinancial Corporates | Industry Growth\*

#### Sales Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### EBITDA Growth | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year

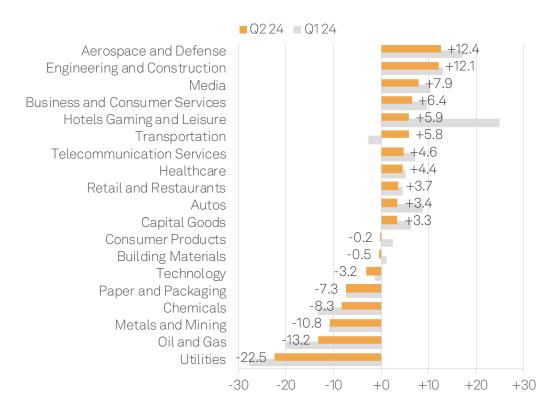


Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Note that reported quarterly revenues for some rated utility companies have seen significant volatility. \* Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results,

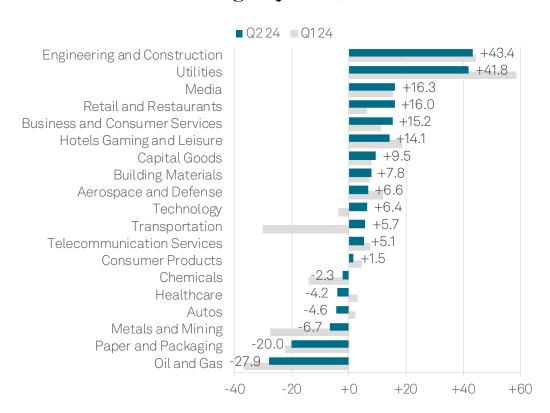


# Rated European Nonfinancial Corporates | Industry Growth\*

#### Sales Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year



#### EBITDA Growth | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year



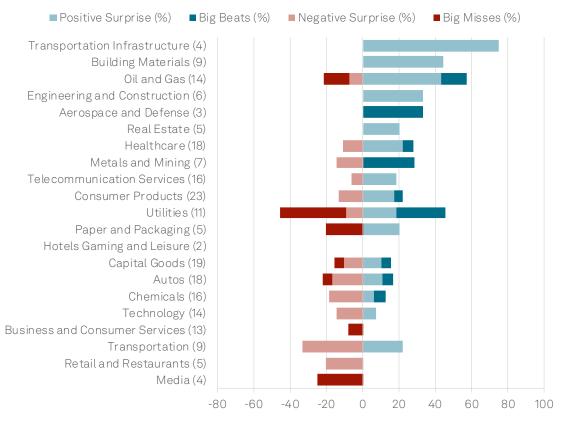
<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results,



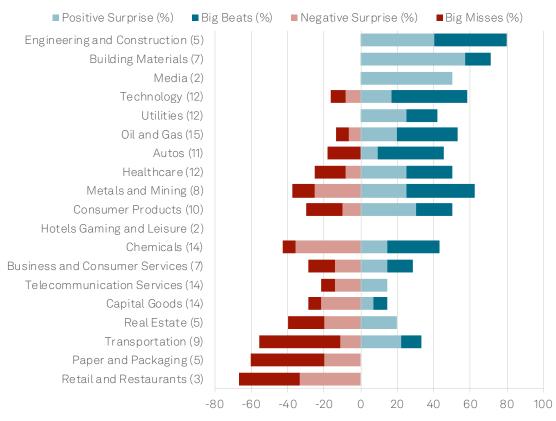
## Rated European Nonfinancial Corporates

# Results Versus Market Expectations By Industry

#### "Surprise" by industry - Sales (Ranked)



#### Surprise" by industry - EBITDA (Ranked)

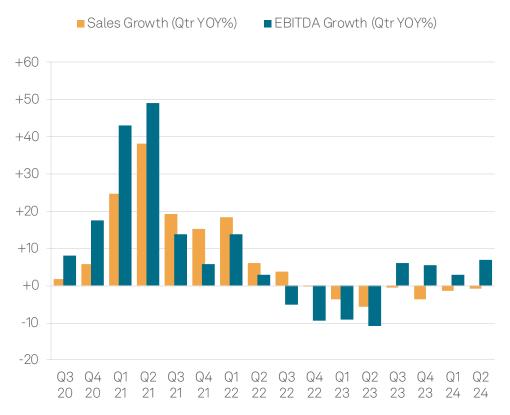


Source: S&P Capital IQ, S&P Global Ratings. Data to August 5, 2024. Figures in parenthesis show how many entities with Q3 2023 results reported have surprise data available. "Surprise" measures the percentage difference between actual results and the Capital IQ consensus estimate prior to reporting. "Surprise Balance" refers to difference between percentage of entities reporting results more than 2.5% better than the S&P Capital IQ market consensus less the percentage reporting results more than 2.5% worse than the consensus. Big beats or misses are those where the percentage difference to consensus exceeds 7.5%.

# **Asia-Pacific**

## Rated Asia-Pacific Nonfinancial Corporates | Sales and EBITDA Growth\*

#### Asia-Pacific | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### Asia-Pacific | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year



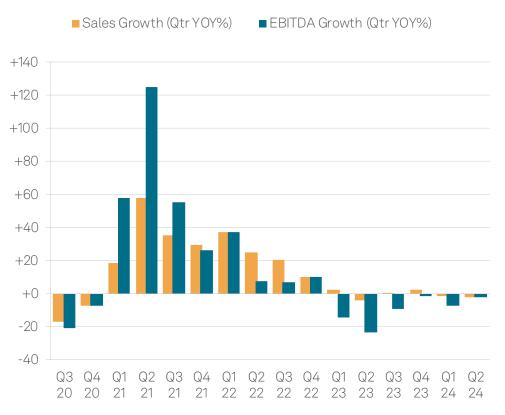
<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.



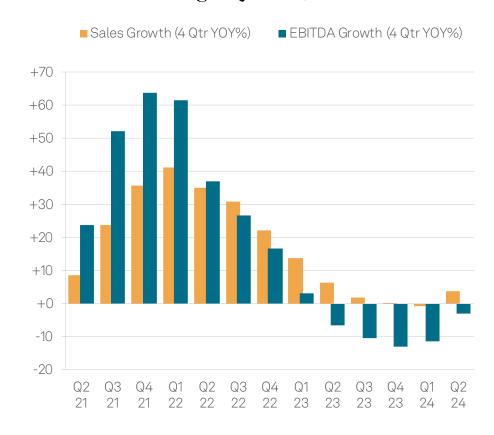
# **Latin America**

## Rated Latin America Nonfinancial Corporates | Sales and EBITDA Growth\*

#### Latin America | Quarterly, Year-Over-Year



#### Latin America | Trailing 4 Quarter, Year-Over-Year



<sup>\*</sup> Measured in U.S. Dollars, at historic rates. Only includes companies reporting quarterly. Latest quarter only includes companies that have reported Q2 2024 results.



Copyright © 2024 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

No content (including ratings, credit-related analyses and data, valuations, model, software or other application or output thereform) or any part thereof (Content) may be modified, reverse engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or its affiliates (collectively, S&P). The Content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. S&P and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively S&P Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Content. S&P Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, for the results obtained from the use of the Content, or for the security or maintenance of any data input by the user. The Content is provided on an "as is" basis. S&P PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, FREEDOM FROM BUGS, SOFTWARE ERRORS OR DEFECTS, THAT THE CONTENT'S FUNCTIONING WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED, OR THAT THE CONTENT WILL OPERATE WITH ANY SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE CONFIGURATION. In no event shall S&P Parties be liable to any party for any direct, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs or losses caused by negligence) in connection with any use of the Content even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Credit-related and other analyses, including ratings, and statements in the Content are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact. S&P's opinions, analyses, and rating acknowledgment decisions (described below) are not recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions, and do not address the suitability of any security. S&P assumes no obligation to update the Content following publication in any form or format. The Content should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. S&P does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor except where registered as such. While S&P has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, S&P does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Rating-related publications may be published for a variety of reasons that are not necessarily dependent on action by rating committees, including, but not limited to, the publication of a periodic update on a credit rating and related analyses.

To the extent that regulatory authorities allow a rating agency to acknowledge in one jurisdiction a rating issued in another jurisdiction for certain regulatory purposes, S&P reserves the right to assign, withdraw, or suspend such acknowledgement at any time and in its sole discretion. S&P Parties disclaim any duty whatsoever arising out of the assignment, withdrawal, or suspension of an acknowledgment as well as any liability for any damage alleged to have been suffered on account thereof.

S&P keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of S&P may have information that is not available to other S&P business units. S&P has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain nonpublic information received in connection with each analytical process.

S&P may receive compensation for its ratings and certain analyses, normally from issuers or underwriters of securities or from obligors. S&P reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. S&P spublic ratings and analyses are made available on its Web sites, <a href="www.spglobal.com/ratings">www.spglobal.com/ratings</a> (free of charge) and <a href="www.spglobal.com/ratings">www.ratingsdirect.com</a> (subscription) and may be distributed through other means, including via S&P publications and third-party redistributors. Additional information about our ratings fees is available at <a href="www.spglobal.com/ratings/usratingsfees">www.spglobal.com/ratings/usratingsfees</a>.

Australia: S&P Global Ratings Australia Pty Ltd holds Australian financial services license number 337565 under the Corporations Act 2001. S&P Global Ratings' credit ratings and related research are not intended for and must not be distributed to any person in Australia other than a wholesale client (as defined in Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act).

STANDARD & POOR'S, S&P and RATINGSDIRECT are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC.

#### spglobal.com/ratings

