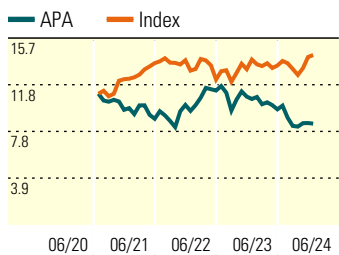


APA Group APA ★★★ (4:00PM 31-Jan-2024)

Snapshot

Fair Value Uncertainty	Medium
Moat Rating	Narrow
Fair Value \$	9.30
Capital Allocation	Poor
Market Cap \$Mil	10,892
Morningstar Style Box	
Price \$ (4:00PM 31-Jan-2024)	8.49
52 Week High/Low \$	10.98/7.87
Shares Issued Mil	1,283
Morningstar Sector	Utilities
Morningstar Industry	Utilities - Regulated Gas
GICS Sector	Utilities

Price vs. Market



	06/22	06/23	06/24e	06/25e
NPAT (\$Mil)	282.7	306.0	292.4	326.3
EPS ¢	24.0	25.9	23.1	25.7
EPS Chg %	4.2	8.1	-10.7	11.2
DPS ¢	53.0	55.0	56.0	55.1
Franked %	30.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
Div Yld %	5.3	5.2	6.6	6.5
P/E x	41.4	41.1	36.7	33.0

Source: Morningstar estimates 05-Nov-2023 .

Profile

APA Group (APA, formerly Australian Pipeline Trust) is a listed energy infrastructure business. The company own, manage and operate \$22 billion portfolio of gas, electricity, solar and wind assets. Through energy, they deliver approximately half of the nation's gas usage and connect Victoria with South Australia, Tasmania with Victoria, and New South Wales with Queensland through our investments in electricity assets.

Investment Perspective by Adrian Atkins 05-Nov-2023

APA Group is a good-quality infrastructure stock with astute internal management. It owns an unparalleled network of gas transmission and distribution infrastructure assets across Australia. As it faces less regulation than most of its peers, it achieves higher returns, particularly from organic expansion that increases the use of its existing network, such as increasing compression in the east coast grid to move more gas from Queensland to southern states. The firm scrapped plans to enter the United States and is instead focused on Australia's renewable energy transition. The investment needed for Australia's transition is huge so there will be plenty of opportunities for APA Group to get involved, though we don't expect strong returns given a lack of competitive advantages in renewable energy.

Research Archive

Time	Date	Rating	Price \$	Event
4:00PM	07-Dec-2023	★★★	8.71	\$
<i>Price move through trigger level</i>				
12:56PM	06-Nov-2023	★★★★	8.37	
<i>APA Group: Expensive Debt and Equity Should Force the Company to Recalibrate Strategy</i>				
4:00PM	03-Oct-2023	★★★★	8.03	\$
<i>Price move through trigger level</i>				
10:30PM	23-Aug-2023	★★★	9.26	
<i>APA Group Corporate Action: Subscribe to SPP; Earnings: Soft Result and Dubious Acquisition</i>				
2:50PM	03-Jul-2023	★★★	9.69	
<i>APA Group: A Solid Option for Income Investors</i>				

\$ = Price Move = Research Report

Financials

	06/21	06/22	06/23	06/24e	06/25e
Sales Revenue (\$Mil)	2,144.2	2,239.6	2,378.0	2,702.6	2,901.2
EBITDA Margin %	76.1	75.6	72.5	71.6	71.6
EBIT (\$Mil)	958.3	956.8	975.0	1,075.6	1,162.9
EBIT Margin %	44.7	42.7	41.0	39.8	40.1
Adjusted NPAT (\$Mil)	271.4	282.7	306.0	292.4	326.3
Reported NPAT (\$Mil)	271.4	282.7	306.0	292.4	326.3
Earnings Per Share ¢	23.0	24.0	25.9	23.1	25.7
Avg no. of Shares (\$Mil)	1,179.9	1,179.9	1,182.0	1,265.0	1,270.2
Book Value Per Share ¢	251.7	222.8	161.6	177.4	147.2
Net Operating Cashflow (\$Mil)	1,051.0	1,197.3	1,206.0	1,216.7	1,329.4
Capex (\$Mil)	-432.0	-683.3	-969.0	-825.0	-831.8
Free Cash Flow (\$Mil)	921.0	216.1	532.5	-1,063.5	881.1

Key Dates

Fiscal Year End	30 Jun	AGM	26 Oct 2023
Listing Date	13 Jun 2000	DRIP	Suspended

Equities Research Methodology and Disclosure

We believe that a company's intrinsic worth results from the future cash flows it can generate. The Morningstar Rating for stocks identifies stocks trading at a discount or premium to their intrinsic worth—or fair value estimate, in Morningstar terminology. Five-star, or Buy-rated, stocks sell for the biggest risk-adjusted discount to their fair values, whereas 1-star, or Sell-rated, stocks trade at premiums to their intrinsic worth. Four key components drive the Morningstar rating: our assessment of the firm's economic moat, our estimate of the stock's fair value, our uncertainty around that fair value estimate and the current market price. This process ultimately culminates in our single-point star rating. Underlying this rating is a fundamentally focused methodology and a robust, standardized set of procedures and core valuation tools used by Morningstar's equity analysts. In this document, we provide a detailed overview of how the Morningstar Rating for stocks is derived, and also outline the analytical work that feeds into our coverage of stocks.

Morningstar's Economic Moat™ Rating

Moat is a proprietary Morningstar rating that measures a company's sustainable competitive advantage, if any. An economic moat enables a company to generate returns on invested capital above its cost of capital for a long period of time.

Morningstar has identified five sources of economic moats: intangible assets, customer switching costs, cost advantages, network effects, and efficient scale. Morningstar assigns stocks one of three moat ratings: wide moat (companies with the longest-lasting competitive advantages), narrow moat (those with less durable competitive advantages), and no moat (those with no sustainable competitive advantage).

Determining Fair Value

At the heart of our valuation system is a detailed projection of a company's future cash flows, resulting from our analysts' independent primary research. Analysts create custom industry and company assumptions to feed income statement, balance sheet, and capital investment assumptions into our globally standardized, proprietary discounted cash flow, or DCF, modeling templates. We use scenario analysis, in-depth competitive advantage analysis, and a variety of other analytical tools to augment this process.

The Uncertainty Rating

Morningstar's Uncertainty Rating is designed to capture the range of potential outcomes for a company's intrinsic value. The rating begins with a suggested rating produced by a quantitative process based on the trailing 12-month standard deviation of daily stock returns. Analysts use the suggested rating, historical rating data, and their own knowledge of the company to inform them as they make the final Uncertainty Rating decision. Our Uncertainty Rating is meant to consider anything that can increase the potential dispersion of outcomes for the intrinsic value of a company, and anything that can affect our ability to predict these outcomes accurately. These can include cyclical factors, operational and financial factors such as leverage, company-specific events, ESG risks, and anything else that might increase the potential dispersion of future outcomes and our ability to estimate those outcomes. We have five different ratings: Low, Medium, High, Very High, or Extreme. Our recommended margin of safety—the discount to fair value demanded before we'd recommend buying or selling the stock—widens as our uncertainty of the estimated value of the equity increases.

Generating the Morningstar Star Rating

Once we determine the fair value estimate of a stock, we compare it with the stock's current market price on a daily basis, and the recommendation, or star rating, is automatically re-calculated at the market close on every day the market is open. Lower price/fair value ratios (<1.0) lead to positive recommendations while higher price/fair value ratios (>1.0) lead to negative recommendations.

Our analysts keep close tabs on the companies they follow, and, based on thorough and ongoing analysis, raise or lower their fair value estimates as warranted. Furthermore, we would expect our fair value estimates to generally rise over time, due to the time value of money. Specifically, over the course of a year, barring major changes to analyst assumptions, we would expect our fair value estimates to increase at the level of our estimate of a firm's cost of equity (net of shareholder returns attributed to dividends). So, for a stock that pays no

dividends with a \$100 fair value estimate today and an estimated 10% cost of equity, we would expect our fair value estimate to rise to \$110 in 12 months, all else equal.

It is also worth noting that there is no predefined distribution of our recommendations. That is, the percentage of stocks that earn a Buy rating can fluctuate daily, so the recommendations, in the aggregate, can serve as a gauge of the broader market's valuation. When there are many Buy-rated stocks, the stock market as a whole is more undervalued, in our opinion, than when very few companies garner our highest rating.

Our recommendations /star ratings are guideposts to a broad audience and individuals must consider their own specific investment goals, risk tolerance, tax situation, time horizon, income needs, and complete investment portfolio, among other factors.

★★★★★ We believe appreciation beyond a fair risk-adjusted return is highly likely over a multiyear time frame. Scenario analysis developed by our analysts indicates that the current market price represents an excessively pessimistic outlook, limiting downside risk and maximizing upside potential. This rating encourages investors to consider an overweight position in the security relative to the appropriate benchmark.

★★★★ Appreciation beyond a fair risk-adjusted return is likely, in our opinion. This rating encourages investors to own the firm's shares, possibly overweight relative to the appropriate benchmark after fully considering more attractively priced alternatives, such as our Buy recommendations.

★★★ Indicates that we believe investors are likely to receive a fair risk-adjusted return (approximately cost of equity). Concentrated portfolios might consider exiting these positions if more attractively priced alternatives are available.

★★ We believe investors are likely to receive a less than fair risk-adjusted return and should consider directing their capital elsewhere. Securities with this recommendation should generally be underweight, assuming less expensive alternatives are available for the portfolio strategy being employed.

★ Indicates a high probability of undesirable risk-adjusted returns from the current market price over a multiyear time frame, based on our analysis. Scenario analysis by our analysts indicates that the market is pricing in an excessively optimistic outlook, limiting upside potential and leaving the investor exposed to Capital loss. This rating encourages investors to strongly consider exiting portfolio positions in the security in nearly all strategies.