

SFL Corporation

Tankers carry earnings momentum while Hercules ramps up

SFL delivered a solid Q2 26, with revenues up 15% q/q and adj. EBITDA up 20% q/q, both well ahead of consensus, driven almost entirely by the two Suezmaxes trading in the strong spot market. Together with a USD100m equity raise, this helped reduce adj. net debt / EBITDA to 5.4x from 5.9x in Q1, while lifting the equity ratio by 2pp to 29%. We expect the strong tanker market to continue to fuel near-term earnings and further deleveraging. This should extend into 2027 as the Hercules rig commences its contract in Q1 27, and starts meaningfully contributing to earnings, particularly welcome ahead of the 2027/28 newbuilding capex. We continue to view SFL's bonds as solid carry cases, supported by relatively diversified and visible cash flow in otherwise volatile shipping markets, and maintain our **Overweight** recommendation.

SFL's revenue rose 15% q/q to USD201m and adj. EBITDA by 20% to USD130m, beating Bloomberg consensus by 14% and 27% respectively. The swing factor was the tanker segment with two of its Suezmax vessels currently trading in a strong spot market and raking in c.USD133k/day. Although the reported QTD Q3 contracted rate moderated to c.USD93k/day, with c.63% of Q3 days covered, this remains very favourable and we expect tanker earnings to continue standing out. Q3 was also an active quarter on the financing side, with SFL extending maturities and adding investment capacity through a USD78m tap of the 2030 bond, the redemption of the 2026 bond, and a USD100m equity raise. SFL also ordered four LNG dual-fuel PCTC newbuildings for c.USD363m, with attractive delivery slots in 2029. Its quarterly dividend was maintained at USD0.22/share.

Key figures

USDm	Q2 25	Q1 26	Q2 26	y/y	q/q
Total sales	193	174	201	4.2%	15.1%
EBITDA (rep.)	102	99	120	17.5%	20.8%
EBITDA (adj.)	104	108	130	24.9%	19.9%
Net income	1	26	34	2214.6%	29.6%
FFO (rep.)	68	71	92	34.9%	29.3%
FFO (adj.)	68	71	92	34.9%	29.3%
Equity	1,009	965	1,035	2.6%	7.3%
Net debt	2,663	2,374	2,271	-14.7%	-4.3%
Net debt (adj.)	2,838	2,538	2,431	-14.3%	-4.2%
Ratios	Q2 25	Q1 26	Q2 26	y/y	q/q
EBITDA margin	53%	57%	60%	7pp	3pp
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	5.5	5.8	5.4	-0.1	-0.5
Adj. net debt/adj. EBITDA (x)	5.5	5.9	5.4	-0.1	-0.6
FFO/net debt	13%	12%	13%	1pp	2pp
Adj. FFO/adj. net debt	12%	11%	12%	1pp	1pp
Net debt/total capital	70%	68%	66%	-3pp	-2pp

Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

Overweight

Shipping, Transportation

Corporate ticker: SFL

Equity ticker: SFL US

Market cap (USDm): 1,715

Ratings:

S&P: NR / NR

Moody's: NR / NR

Fitch: NR / NR

ESG rating:

Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating:

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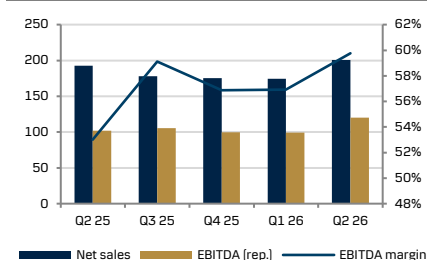
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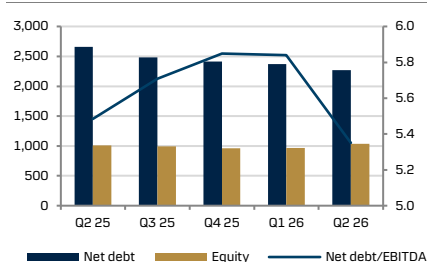
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Profitability (USDm)



Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

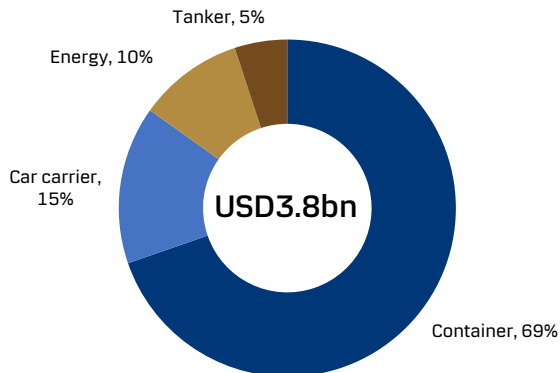
Financial metrics (USDm)



Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

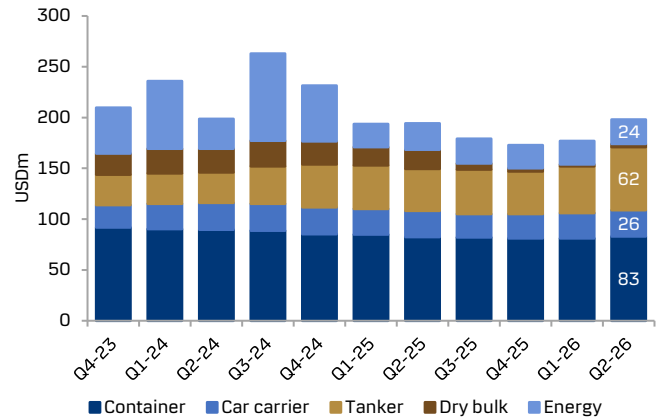
Quarterly development in charts

Chart 1. Backlog measured USD3.8bn as of Q2 26, with 6.2 years weighted remaining term



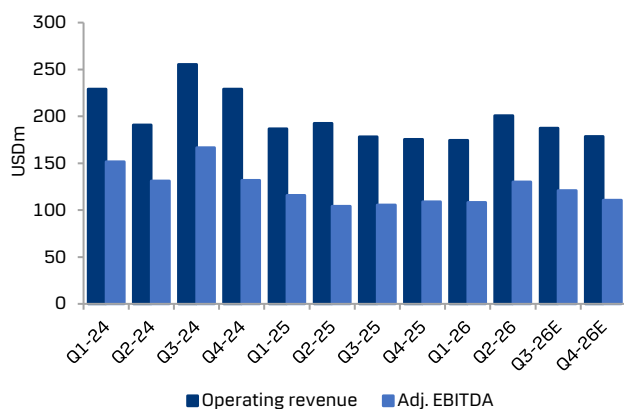
Source: Company data, Rystad, Danske Bank Credit Research

Chart 2. Charter hire revenue up 12% q/q driven by two Suezmaxes operating in the spot market



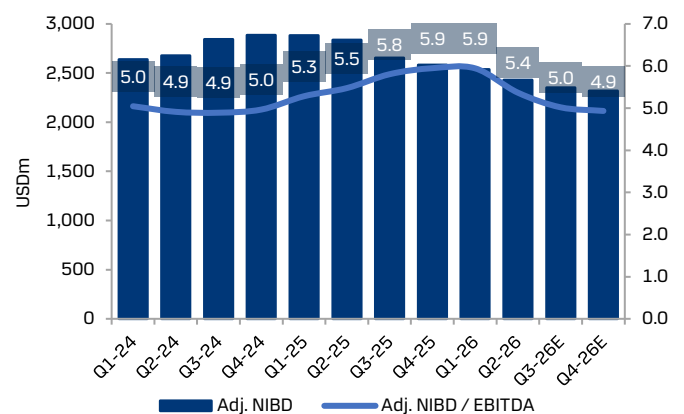
Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

Chart 3. Adj. EBITDA up 20% q/q on higher revenue



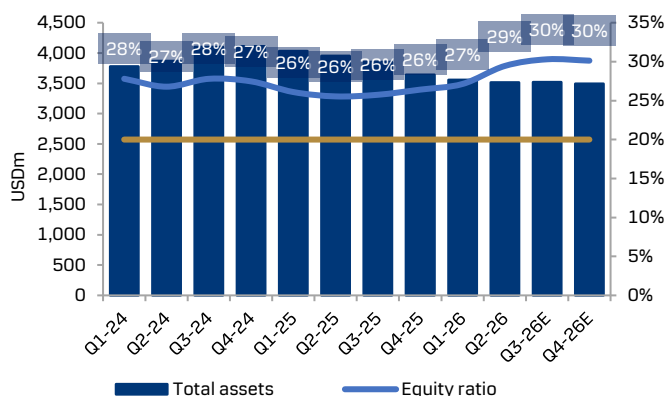
Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

Chart 4. Leverage turned lower after six consecutive quarters of increases



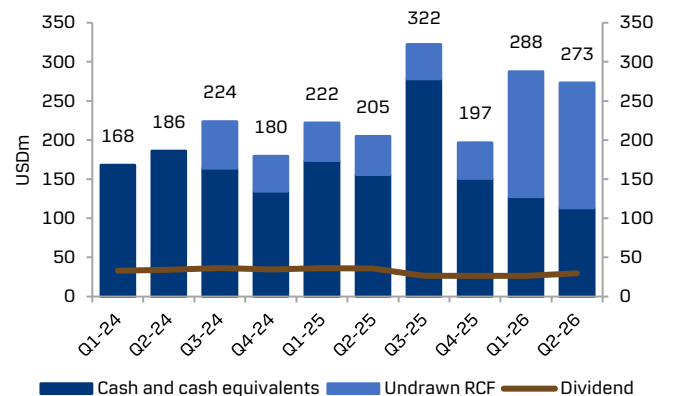
Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

Chart 5. Equity ratio boosted by the USD100m equity raise; headroom to its 20% covenant even better



Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

Chart 6. Liquidity remains solid at USD273m as of Q2 26



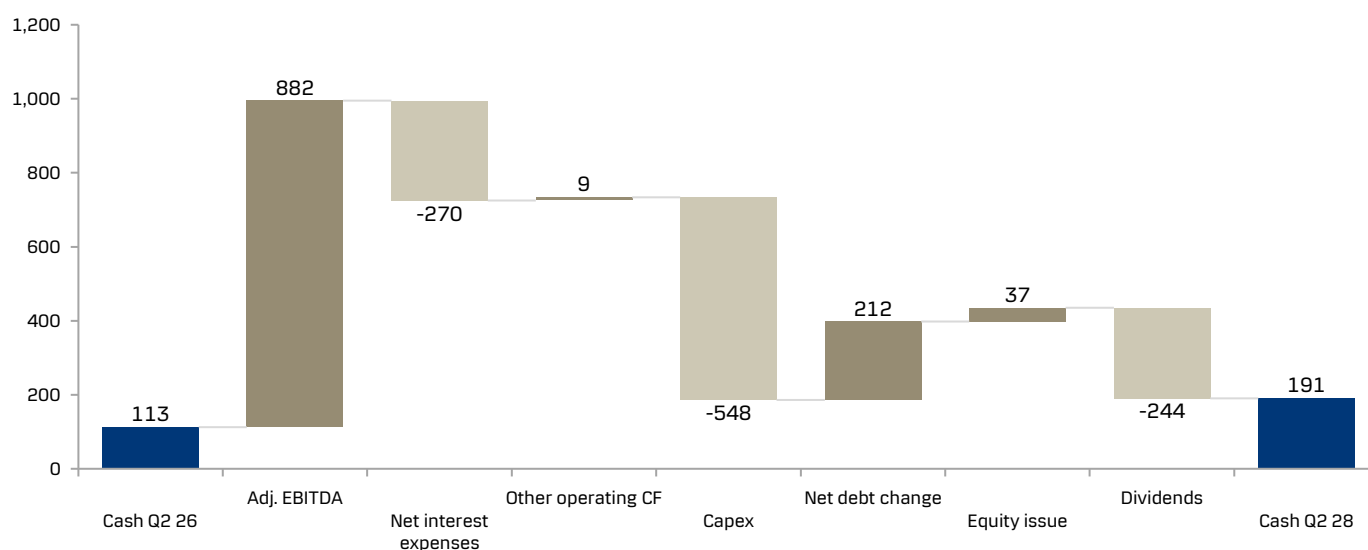
Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research

More deleveraging possible

We expect further deleveraging over the coming quarters. In the near term, this will be carried by elevated spot earnings from two Suezmax tankers. Several tankers are due to roll off contract by the end of 2026, which could create some re-employment and residual value risk, depending on contract extensions or purchase options. However, we view this risk as low given the current strength of the tanker markets and the corresponding asset values. Ultimately, the favourable backdrop should support re-charter, potentially at better rates, or exercised extensions where those are available.

In addition, the Hercules drilling rig is set to commence its Canadian drilling contract in Q1 27. The c.USD170m award, with an IG oil company, has a minimum term of 400 days, with extension options of a similar length, and should begin contributing meaningfully to group earnings. This provides a second, well-timed deleveraging driver, which is particularly welcome given the capex ramp ahead. We expect the containership newbuilding pre-delivery instalments to begin in 2027, with the larger delivery instalments due in 2028, when the five 16,800 TEU containerships are scheduled for delivery. Total outstanding capex commitments stood at USD1.2bn as of Q2 26, most of which the SFL expects to fund with pre and post-delivery credit facilities.

Chart 7. Estimated next 24 months cash flow development



Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research estimates

Fleet growth and diversification

SFL also announced a newbuild order for four 7,000 CEU LNG dual-fuel PCTCs for c.USD363m, with deliveries scheduled in 2029, an attractive slot given generally constrained yard capacity. Two of the four are already fixed on five-year time charters to a major Asia-based car manufacturer (with a further five-year option), adding c.USD150m to firm backlog. The order improves diversification of an asset base and backlog that remain heavily weighted toward container shipping.

SFL closed the quarter with a contracted backlog of USD3.8bn and a weighted average remaining charter term of 6.2 years, having added USD150m of newbuilding backlog and USD83m of contract extensions during the period.

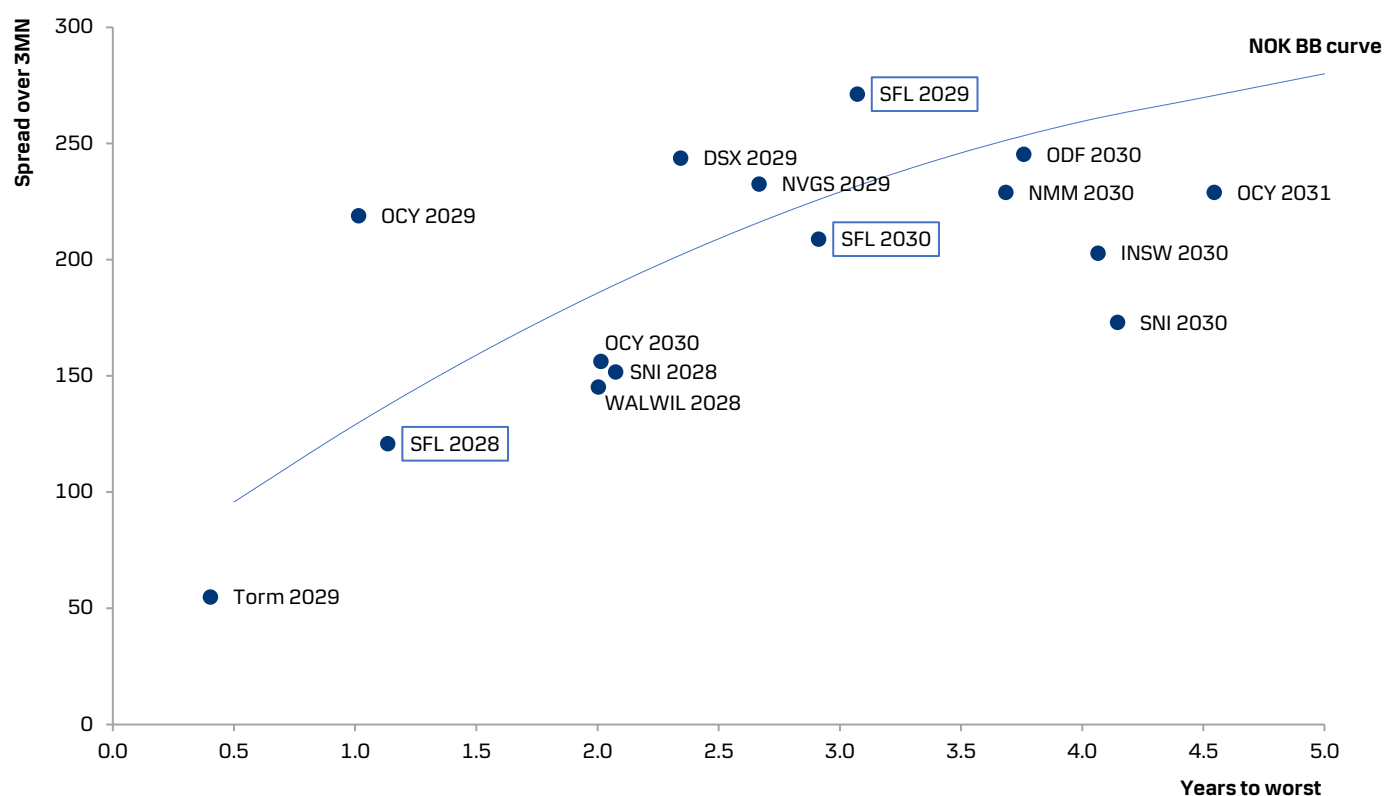
Balance sheet and funding

SFL raised an aggregate of USD100m in equity during Q2 and Q3 through its dividend reinvestment and at-the-market programmes, at a premium to VWAP (shares up 58% YTD). From a credit standpoint the equity injection is clearly supportive, strengthening its balance sheet, cushioning leverage, and increasing investment capacity ahead of the 2027/28 newbuilding capex. On the debt side, the quarter also saw SFL tap USD78m of its 2030 senior unsecured bond at an implied YTM of c.6.8% and redeem its USD150m 2026 senior unsecured bond. Looking ahead, we would expect SFL to address its next maturity (USD150m 2027 bond) in advance given the receptive bond market.

Recommendation

Although SFL's bonds have tightened materially this year, we continue to view them as a solid carry cases at current spread levels, supported by strong earnings visibility and a relatively diversified asset base. We maintain our Overweight recommendation.

Chart 8. Relative value



*Discount margin for NOK FRN, ASW spread for foreign currency

Source: Bloomberg (as of 31 August 2026), Danske Bank Credit Research estimates

Company summary

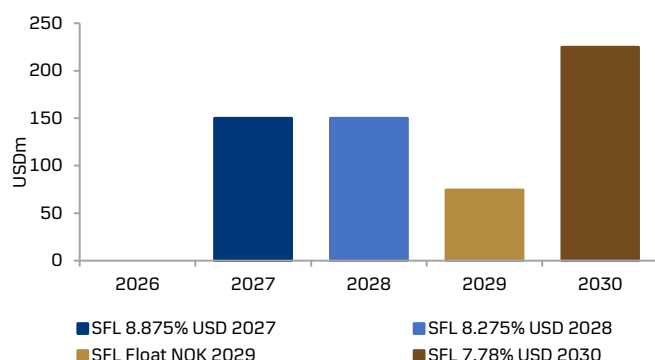
Company description

SFL Corporation is a ship-owning company primarily engaged in leasing container vessels, tankers, car carriers, dry bulk vessels, and drilling rigs. Operating a diversified fleet of 61 vessels across multiple shipping markets, the company benefits from a broad asset and counterparty base. Listed on the NYSE, SFL's largest shareholder is John Fredriksen's Hemen Holding, which holds an approximately 18% stake. The company does not currently have a public credit rating.

Key credit strengths

- Cash flow visibility with USD3.8bn fixed rate charter backlog and c. 6.2 years weighted average remaining term as of Q2 26
- Diversified cash flow from various shipping segments
- Proven access to capital
- Limited creditor guarantees cap downside risk

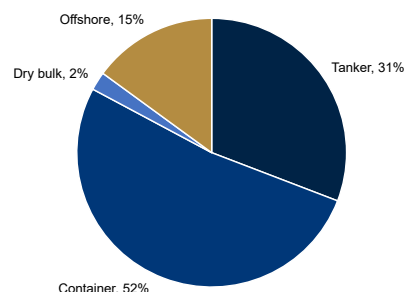
Debt maturity profile



Selected outstanding bonds

ISIN	Company	CCY	Outstndng	Maturity	Coupon
N0001281998	SFL Corp.	USD	150m	2027	8.875%
N0001320054	SFL Corp.	USD	150m	2028	8.275%
N0001333544	SFL Corp.	NOK	750m	2029	3MN+325
N0001346198	SFL Corp.	USD	225m	2030	7.800%

EBITDA breakdown, segments



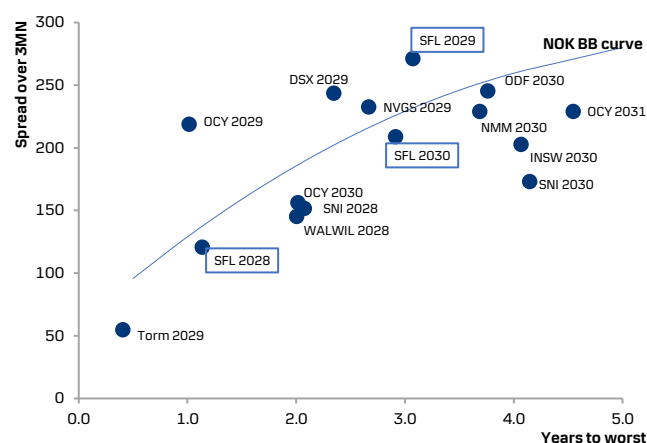
Key credit challenges

- Elevated leverage
- Strong commitment to shareholder distributions
- Large capex commitments
- Drilling rig re-contracting and residual value risk (i.e. extended Hercules idleness)
- Drilling rig re-contracting and residual value risk (i.e. extended Hercules idleness)

Main shareholders

Name	Votes [%]	Capital [%]
Hemen Holding	17.5%	17.5%
DNB ASA	8.0%	8.0%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP	6.0%	6.0%
Blackrock Inc	4.4%	4.4%
Mirae Asset Financial Group	2.4%	2.4%

Relative valuation



*Discount margin for NOK FRN, ASW spread for foreign currency

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, Danske Bank Credit Research [all charts and tables]

Summary table

Income statement (USDm)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Total sales	904	733	741	765	740
Operating expenses	-364	-320	-308	-308	-325
EBITDA	541	413	433	457	415
EBITDA adjusted	581	434	470	493	451
Non-recurring items	5	-41	12	0	0
Depreciation and amortisation	-234	-276	-204	-208	-219
EBIT	307	137	229	250	197
EBIT adjusted	347	158	266	285	232
Net interest	-165	-161	-125	-127	-137
Pre-tax profit	141	-25	104	123	60
Tax	-11	-2	-4	-9	-4
Net income	131	-26	100	113	55
Balance sheet (USDm)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Fixed assets	3,715	3,304	3,095	3,058	3,555
Goodwill					
Associates	16	16	16	16	16
Other non-current assets	61	59	67	67	67
Working capital assets	143	104	134	139	134
Cash and cash equivalents	135	151	173	211	148
of which restricted cash					
Other current assets	39	4	5	5	5
Total assets	4,108	3,638	3,490	3,495	3,926
Total assets (adj.)	4,331	3,847	3,683	3,673	4,087
Total interest-bearing debt	2,839	2,566	2,332	2,346	2,837
Total interest-bearing debt adjusted	3,024	2,737	2,494	2,509	2,999
Net interest-bearing debt	2,705	2,416	2,159	2,135	2,689
Net interest-bearing debt adjusted	2,887	2,583	2,319	2,295	2,848
Working capital liabilities	139	104	96	96	102
Other current liabilities	0	1	2	3	4
Other non-current liabilities	1	6	10	10	10
Total equity	1,128	961	1,051	1,043	976
Total equity and liabilities	4,108	3,638	3,490	3,495	3,925
Total equity and liabilities (adj.)	4,331	3,847	3,683	3,673	4,087
Cash flow statement (USDm)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
EBITDA	541	413	433	457	415
Tax paid					
Other cash flow from operations	-158	-135	-124	-136	-141
Funds from operations (FFO)	382	278	309	321	274
FFO (adjusted)	382	278	309	321	274
Change in working capital	-12	13	-31	-5	10
Operating cashflow (CFO)	370	291	278	316	285
CFO (adjusted)	370	291	278	316	285
Capex	-645	-70	-44	-170	-716
Divestments/acquisitions of businesses	27	236	48	0	0
Free operating cashflow (FOCF)	-248	456	283	146	-432
FOCF (adjusted)	-248	456	283	146	-432
Dividend paid	-138	-125	-117	-122	-122
Share buyback					
Free cashflow (FCF)	-386	331	165	24	-554
Other investing activities					
Debt repayment	-1,109	-538	-567	-289	-304
Funding shortfall	-1,495	-208	-402	-264	-858
New debt	1,398	244	324	303	795
New equity	96	-10	100	0	0
Other financing activities	-30	-9	-0	0	0
Change in cash	-31	17	21	39	-63

Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research estimates

Summary table

Adjusted ratios (USDm)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Sales growth	20%	-19%	1%	3%	-3%
EBITDA margin	59.8%	56.3%	58.4%	59.7%	56.1%
Adj. EBITDA margin	64.3%	59.2%	63.4%	64.4%	60.9%
EBIT margin	33.9%	18.6%	30.9%	32.6%	26.6%
Adj. EBIT margin	38.4%	21.5%	35.9%	37.3%	31.4%
EBITDA interest coverage (x)	3.0	2.4	3.0	3.3	2.8
Adj. EBITDA interest coverage (x)					
EBIT interest coverage (x)	1.8	0.8	1.6	1.9	1.4
Adj. EBIT interest coverage (x)					
FFO interest coverage (x)	2.2	1.6	2.2	2.4	1.9
Adj. FFO interest coverage (x)					
CFO interest coverage (x)	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.0
Adj. CFO interest coverage (x)					
Net debt/EBITDA (reported) (x)	5.0	5.8	5.0	4.7	6.5
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	4.7	5.6	4.6	4.3	6.0
Adj. net debt/adj. EBITDA (x)	5.0	5.9	4.9	4.7	6.3
Debt/EBITDA (x)	5.3	6.2	5.4	5.1	6.8
Adj. debt/adj. EBITDA (x)	5.2	6.3	5.3	5.1	6.6
Debt/EBITDA (reported) (x)	5.3	6.2	5.4	5.1	6.8
FFO/net debt	14.1%	11.5%	14.3%	15.0%	10.2%
Adj. FFO/adj. debt	12.6%	10.1%	12.4%	12.8%	9.1%
Adj. FFO/adj. net debt	13.2%	10.7%	13.3%	14.0%	9.6%
FFO/debt	13.5%	10.8%	13.2%	13.7%	9.7%
Adj. total debt/total capital					
Net debt/total capital	68.2%	68.5%	63.8%	63.0%	70.5%
Adj. net debt/adj. total capital					
Quarterly overview (USDm)	Q2 25	Q3 25	Q4 25	Q1 26	Q2 26
Net sales	193	178	176	174	201
EBITDA	102	105	100	99	120
Adj. EBITDA	104	106	109	108	130
EBIT	45	49	32	56	65
Net income	1	9	-5	26	34
Capex	-28	-18	-4	-7	-16
FFO	68	71	68	71	92
Total debt	2,818	2,761	2,566	2,502	2,384
Net debt	2,663	2,482	2,416	2,374	2,271
Adjusted net debt	2,838	2,654	2,583	2,538	2,431
Equity (incl. minorities)	1,009	992	961	965	1,035
Ratios					
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.4
Adj. net debt/EBITDA (x)	5.5	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.4
FFO/net debt	13%	12%	11%	12%	13%
Adj. FFO/net debt	12%	11%	11%	11%	12%

Source: Company data, Danske Bank Credit Research estimates

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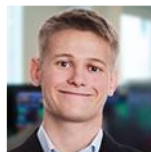
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Recommendation structure

Investment recommendations are based on the expected development in the credit profile as well as relative value compared with the sector and peers.

As at 30 June 2026, Danske Bank Credit Research had investment recommendations on 189 corporate bond issuers. The distribution of recommendations is represented in the distribution of recommendations column below. The proportion of issuers corresponding to each of the recommendation categories above to which Danske Bank provided investment banking services in the previous 12 months ending 30 June 2026 is shown below.

Rating	Anticipated performance	Time horizon	Distribution of recommendations	Investment banking relationships
Overweight	Outperformance relative to peer group	6 months	26%	50%
Marketweight	Performance in line with peer group	6 months	60%	62%
Underweight	Underperformance relative to peer group	6 months	13%	44%

Changes to recommendation in the past 12 months:

Date	Old rec.	New rec.
19 May 2026	No recommendation	Overweight
29 Apr 2026	Overweight	No recommendation
12 Feb 2026	Marketweight	Overweight
22 Oct 2025	Overweight	Marketweight

Validity time period

This communication and the communications in the list referred to below are valid until the earlier of (a) dissemination of a superseding communication by the author, or (b) significant changes in circumstances following its dissemination, including events relating to the market or the issuer, which can influence the price of the issuer or financial instrument.

Investment recommendations disseminated in the preceding 12-month period

A list of previous investment recommendations disseminated by the lead analyst(s) of this research report in the preceding 12-month period can be found at <https://danskeci.com/ci/research/disclosures-and-disclaimers>. Select Credit Research recommendation history – Recommendation history.

Other previous investment recommendations disseminated by Danske Bank Credit Research are also available in the database.

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