

Cintas Corp. (CTAS)

New quarterly Uniform Rental Business Pulse Survey points to attractive revenue trends; Reiterate Buy

Buy

CTAS	12m Price Target: \$592.00	Price: \$523.38	Upside: 13.1%
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We are launching our new quarterly Uniform & Linen Rental and Facility Services Business Pulse Survey, which provides a rolling six-month forward-looking view on multiple dimensions of the industry. The survey polls C-Suite executives and general, plant and branch managers in North America on their revenue outlook, pricing environment, growth drivers, cost trends and macro views. In this quarter's survey, respondents had a healthy outlook for revenues, anticipating on average 6%+ y/y growth over the next six months lifted by rising revenue per customer, penetration of the no-programmer market and strong retention trends. Labor and fuel cost growth expectations exceeded the rate of inflation, which we expect to mitigate the rate of near-term margin expansion. Survey participants had mostly a stable outlook for the macro environment and a stable-to-positive outlook for the industry, citing improvements in the hiring environment, supply chain, travel activity, new business, cross-sell/upsell, product innovation and pricing. Survey results reinforce our healthy organic revenue growth outlook for Cintas, which should continue to see a resilient selling environment with growth led by volumes and tailwinds from the healthcare, education and government verticals. We reiterate our Buy rating and raise our 12-month price target from \$566 to \$592 for CTAS.

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Key Data

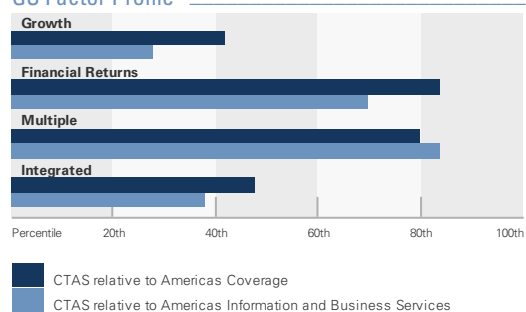
Market cap: \$54.1bn
Enterprise value: \$56.2bn
3m ADTV: \$198.6mn
United States
Americas Information and Business Services
M&A Rank: 3

GS Forecast

	5/23	5/24E	5/25E	5/26E
Revenue (\$ mn)	8,815.8	9,491.1	10,172.4	10,907.2
EBITDA (\$ mn)	2,213.5	2,410.5	2,603.7	2,813.0
EBIT (\$ mn)	1,802.7	1,963.0	2,124.2	2,299.2
EPS (\$)	12.98	14.29	15.90	17.64
P/E (X)	33.0	36.6	32.9	29.7
EV/EBITDA (X)	21.1	23.1	20.9	18.9
FCF yield (%)	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.5
Dividend yield (%)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Net debt/EBITDA (X)	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.4

	5/23	8/23E	11/23E	2/24E
EPS (\$)	3.33	3.49	3.52	3.59

GS Factor Profile



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates. See disclosures for details.

Business Pulse Survey Introduction

Introducing our Uniform Rental Business Pulse Survey. We are launching our new quarterly Uniform & Linen Rental and Facility Services Business Pulse Survey, which provides a rolling six-month outlook of the industry across multiple dimensions, including revenue trends, the pricing environment, key growth drivers, cost

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Buy

Cintas Corp. (CTAS)

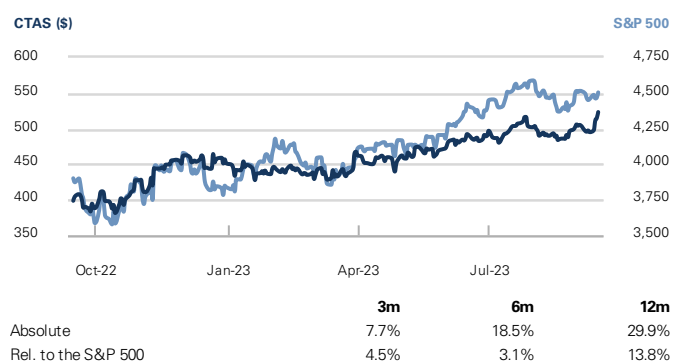
Rating since Mar 26, 2018

Ratios & Valuation

	5/23	5/24E	5/25E	5/26E
P/E (X)	33.0	36.6	32.9	29.7
EV/EBITDA (X)	21.1	23.1	20.9	18.9
EV/sales (X)	5.3	5.9	5.4	4.9
FCF yield (%)	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.5
EV/DACF (X)	23.3	25.8	23.4	21.2
CROCI (%)	18.6	18.8	19.2	19.5
ROE (%)	37.4	35.5	34.2	32.3
Net debt/EBITDA (X)	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.4
Net debt/equity (%)	61.1	48.2	34.0	19.5
Interest cover (X)	16.2	19.7	21.9	24.3
Inventory days	38.5	37.1	34.7	32.4
Receivable days	44.7	45.7	45.5	45.5
Days payable outstanding	21.8	23.3	23.7	23.7

Growth & Margins (%)

	5/23	5/24E	5/25E	5/26E
Total revenue growth	12.2	7.7	7.2	7.2
EBITDA growth	13.7	8.9	8.0	8.0
EPS growth	15.1	10.1	11.3	10.9
DPS growth	NM	NM	NM	NM
Gross margin	47.3	47.5	47.6	47.7
EBIT margin	20.4	20.7	20.9	21.1

Price Performance

Source: FactSet. Price as of 14 Sep 2023 close.

Income Statement (\$ mn)

	5/23	5/24E	5/25E	5/26E
Total revenue	8,815.8	9,491.1	10,172.4	10,907.2
Cost of goods sold	(4,642.4)	(4,987.5)	(5,334.4)	(5,708.1)
SG&A	(2,370.7)	(2,540.6)	(2,713.8)	(2,900.0)
R&D	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other operating inc./exp.)	-	-	-	-
EBITDA	2,211.8	2,409.1	2,602.4	2,811.8
Depreciation & amortization	(409.2)	(446.1)	(478.1)	(512.6)
EBIT	1,802.7	1,963.0	2,124.2	2,299.2
Net interest inc./exp.)	(109.5)	(98.0)	(95.7)	(93.3)
Income/(loss) from associates	-	-	-	-
Pre-tax profit	1,693.1	1,865.0	2,028.6	2,205.9
Provision for taxes	(345.1)	(396.4)	(415.9)	(441.2)
Minority interest	-	-	-	-
Preferred dividends	6.2	7.3	8.1	8.8
Net inc. (pre-exceptionals)	1,341.9	1,461.3	1,604.7	1,755.9
Net inc. (post-exceptionals)	1,354.2	1,476.0	1,620.8	1,773.5
EPS (basic, pre-exception) (\$)	12.98	14.29	15.90	17.63
EPS (diluted, pre-exception) (\$)	12.98	14.29	15.90	17.63
EPS (ex-ESO exp., dil.) (\$)	--	--	--	--
DPS (\$)	-	-	-	-
Div. payout ratio (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wtd avg shares out. (basic) (mn)	103.4	102.3	100.9	99.6
Wtd avg shares out. (diluted) (mn)	103.4	102.3	100.9	99.6

Balance Sheet (\$ mn)

	5/23	5/24E	5/25E	5/26E
Cash & cash equivalents	124.1	384.0	782.1	1,347.6
Accounts receivable	1,153.0	1,225.3	1,313.1	1,407.9
Inventory	506.6	506.6	506.6	506.6
Other current assets	1,154.7	1,254.7	1,354.7	1,454.7
Total current assets	2,938.5	3,370.7	3,956.5	4,716.9
Net PP&E	1,396.5	1,459.7	1,534.6	1,607.4
Net intangibles	346.6	346.6	346.6	346.6
Total investments	247.2	247.2	247.2	247.2
Other long-term assets	3,439.2	3,439.2	3,439.2	3,439.2
Total assets	8,546.4	9,041.8	9,702.5	10,535.6
Accounts payable	302.3	334.7	357.9	383.0
Short-term debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Current lease liabilities	43.7	43.7	43.7	43.7
Other current liabilities	884.1	851.6	831.6	811.6
Total current liabilities	1,230.1	1,230.0	1,233.2	1,238.3
Long-term debt	2,486.4	2,486.4	2,486.4	2,486.4
Non-current lease liabilities	138.3	138.3	138.3	138.3
Other long-term liabilities	827.6	827.6	827.6	827.6
Total long-term liabilities	3,452.3	3,452.3	3,452.3	3,452.3
Total liabilities	4,682.4	4,682.3	4,685.5	4,690.6
Preferred shares	-	-	-	-
Total common equity	3,864.0	4,359.5	5,016.9	5,845.0
Minority interest	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities & equity	8,546.4	9,041.8	9,702.5	10,535.6
BVPS (\$)	37.38	42.63	49.71	58.70

Cash Flow (\$ mn)

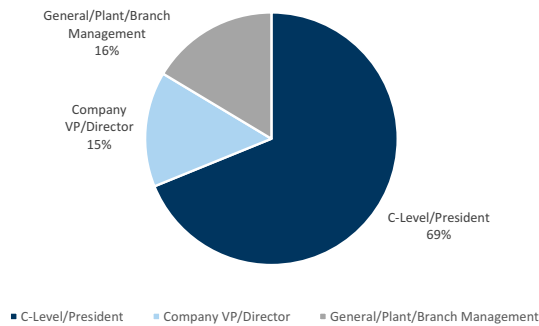
	5/23	5/24E	5/25E	5/26E
Net income	1,348.0	1,468.6	1,612.7	1,764.7
D&A add-back	409.2	446.1	478.1	512.6
Minority interest add-back	-	-	-	-
Net (inc)/dec working capital	(286.2)	(172.4)	(184.5)	(189.8)
Others	126.9	136.0	136.0	136.0
Cash flow from operations	1,597.8	1,878.3	2,042.3	2,223.6
Capital expenditures	(331.1)	(348.0)	(380.0)	(400.0)
Acquisitions	(46.4)	-	-	-
Divestitures	-	-	-	-
Others	(11.2)	-	-	-
Cash flow from investing	(388.7)	(348.0)	(380.0)	(400.0)
Dividends paid	(449.9)	(470.4)	(464.2)	(458.0)
Share issuance/(repurchase)	(398.9)	(800.0)	(800.0)	(800.0)
Inc/(dec) in debt	(50.0)	-	-	-
Others	(276.7)	-	-	-
Cash flow from financing	(1,175.5)	(1,270.4)	(1,264.2)	(1,258.0)
Total cash flow	33.7	259.9	398.1	565.6
Free cash flow	1,266.7	1,530.3	1,662.3	1,823.6
Free cash flow per share (basic) (\$)	12.25	14.96	16.47	18.31

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.

considerations, and perspectives on the overall economy. We believe the survey is differentiated in that it provides a forward-looking rather than backward-looking perspective, offers insights across the P&L with granularity by end-market, and captures the perspectives of executives and managers in the industry. In this quarter's survey, we had 61 respondents, with 69% being C-Level/Presidents, 15% being VPs/Directors and 16% being general, plant or branch managers. Respondents had diversified end-market exposures, with 32% focused on hospitality, 27% focused on food & beverage, 27% focused on industrial and 14% focused on healthcare. Among the companies we surveyed, 10% generated more than \$500mn in revenue on an LTM basis, 11% generated \$100-\$500mn, 10% generated \$50-100mn and 42% generated less than \$50mn.

Exhibit 1: The vast majority of survey respondents were C-level executives

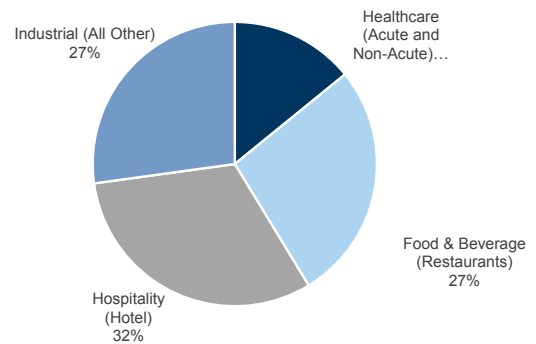
Respondents' role within the companies



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 2: End-markets were broadly represented in the survey

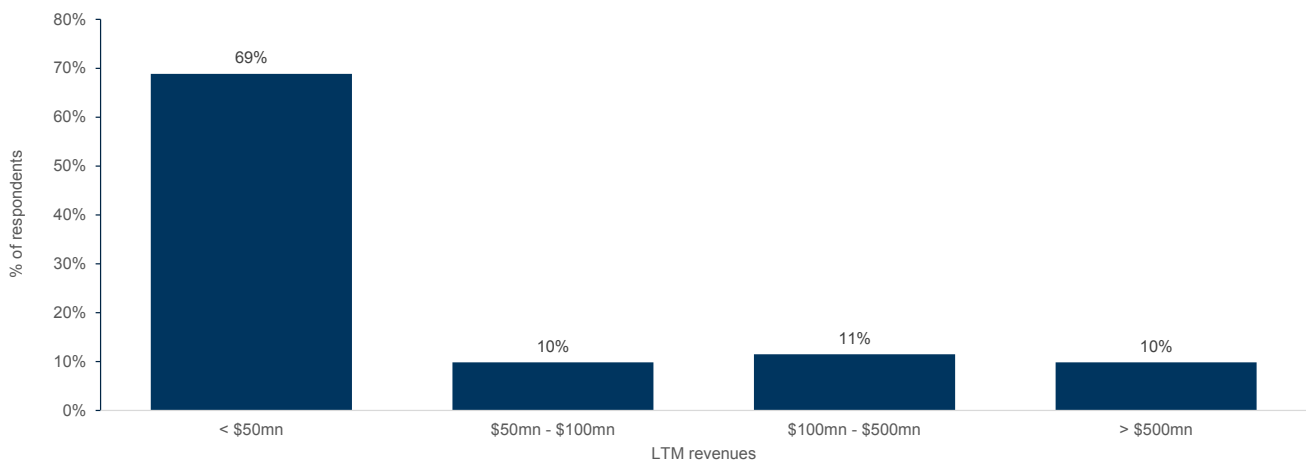
Verticals where revenue exceed 30% of total revenue



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 3: Most survey participants hail from smaller companies with <50mn in annual revenue

Revenue generated at the companies over the past twelve months

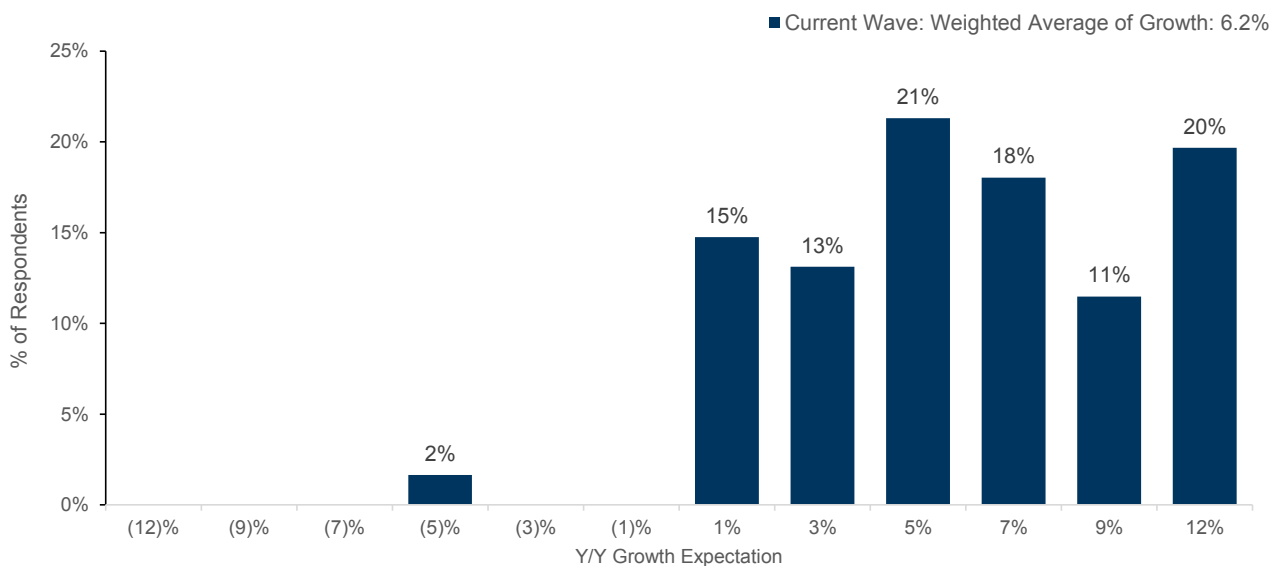


Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Revenue Outlook

Revenue expected to demonstrate healthy y/y growth over the near-term. Uniform & linen rental and facility services executives and managers anticipate revenue to demonstrate healthy y/y growth over the near-term. On average, survey participants expect revenue to grow 6.2% y/y over the next six months. Virtually all respondents expect revenue to increase y/y over the near-term, with only 2% of those surveyed expecting a y/y revenue decline. Of note, approximately 50% of survey participants expect revenue growth to exceed 6% over the next six months, and 20% look for revenue growth to exceed 10%. Industry participants had differing revenue growth expectations depending on their end-market focus, with growth being strongest in hospitality, followed by healthcare, industrials and food & beverage. Survey responses coincide with CTAS' guidance for F2024 revenue growth of 6.1-7.8%. Note that the surveyed revenue growth outlook applies to the next six months, and assuming the macro environment improves over this time frame, revenue growth over the next twelve months should be higher. We expect revenue growth at CTAS to continue to be driven mostly by volumes, followed by pricing increases that are coming above historical levels due to inflation.

Exhibit 4: Respondents expect healthy revenue growth north of 5% y/y
Anticipated y/y revenue growth in their own companies in the next six months



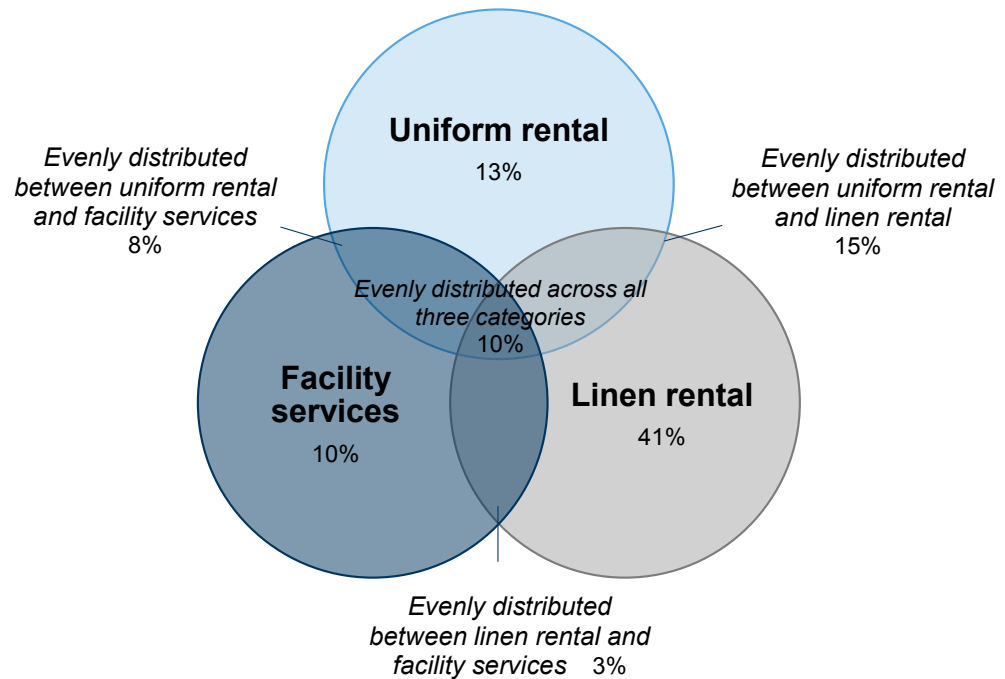
Midpoint of survey ranges highlighted in exhibit

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Linen rentals to grow the most over the next six months. Survey participants expect customer spending over the near-term to grow the most in linen rentals. Specifically, 41% of respondents anticipate customer spending growth over the next six months to come mostly from linen rentals, 13% expect the growth to come mostly from uniform rentals and 10% expect the growth to come mostly from facility services, with the

remainder expecting growth to come from a combination of the three. We believe demand for linen rentals is being driven by higher safety standards post-COVID, along with the rising cost of in-house of laundering that’s prompting customers to outsource to third-party service providers. The healthcare vertical had the greatest mix of respondents expecting linen rental services to fuel revenue growth over the next six months. In contrast, the industrial vertical had the highest mix of respondents looking for uniform rental services to lead revenue growth near-term. CTAS’ end-market focus is primarily industrial broadly defined, with healthcare representing just 7% of total revenue.

Exhibit 5: Linen rentals were most cited as the top anticipated near-term revenue growth driver
Where customer spending in their own companies will grow the most in the next six months



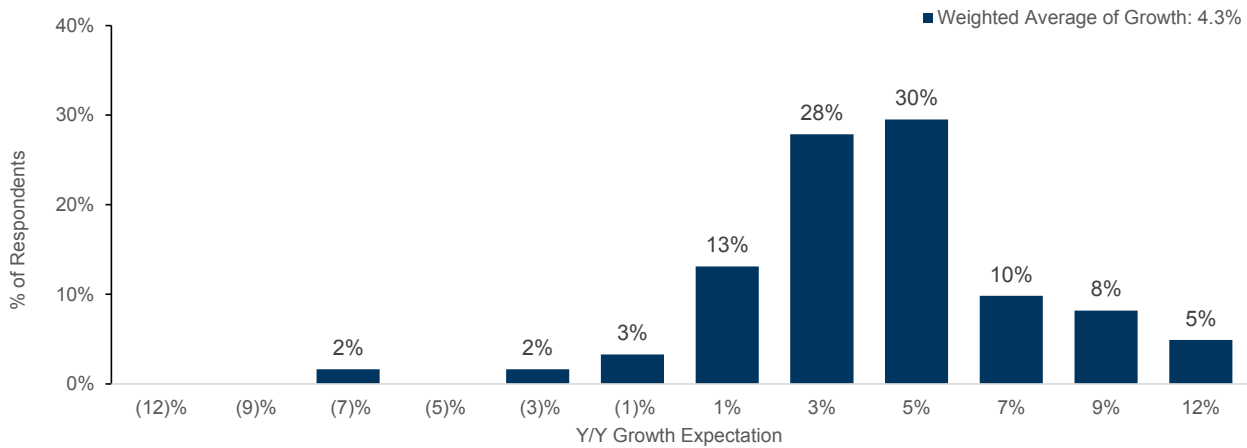
Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Revenue per customer outlook is robust. Revenue per customer is an important driver of overall revenue growth over the next six months for uniform & linen rental and facility services companies. Survey participants expect revenue per customer over the next six months to increase 4.3% y/y on average. The top three drivers of rising revenue per customer cited by respondents were a greater mix of high revenue new customers, followed by growing customer headcount and an increasing rate of cross-sell/upsell. We note that pricing increases were not explicitly cited by survey participants as a key driver of revenue per customer growth. Instead, successful growth of customer volumes and an increase in products sold to new and existing customers were highlighted as drivers, demonstrating the importance of customer success and a strong value proposition in fueling top-line performance in the industry. Average expectations for revenue per customer growth come above current US inflation of 3.7% and the 3.0% US inflation forecast for 2023 by GS economists. In fact, over 50% of respondents expect revenue per customer growth to exceed 5% over the next six months. Revenue per customer growth expectations were strongest in hospitality, followed by food & beverage,

healthcare and industrials. A healthy revenue per customer outlook is consistent with operating trends at CTAS, which has seen revenue tailwinds from pricing, volumes from new and existing customers, and cross-sell/upsell.

Exhibit 6: Revenue per customer growth expected to exceed US inflation rates

Growth in their own companies' revenue per customer in the next six months

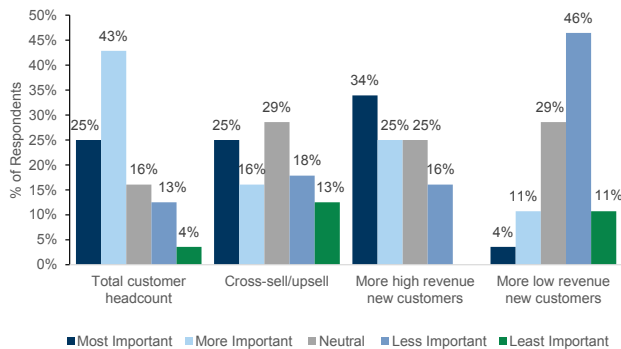


Midpoint of survey ranges highlighted in exhibit

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 7: Survey participants expect a diverse number of drivers for revenue per customer growth

Anticipated drivers of revenue per customer growth in the next six months

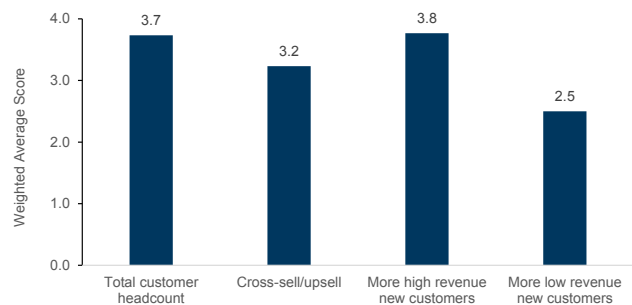


"Other" fill-in responses included pricing increases, new products, share gains, direct sales efforts and macro improvement

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 8: A greater mix of high revenue per customer cited as the top driver of revenue per customer growth

Weighted average rank in the drivers of revenue per customer growth in the next six months (1 = most important, 5 = least important)



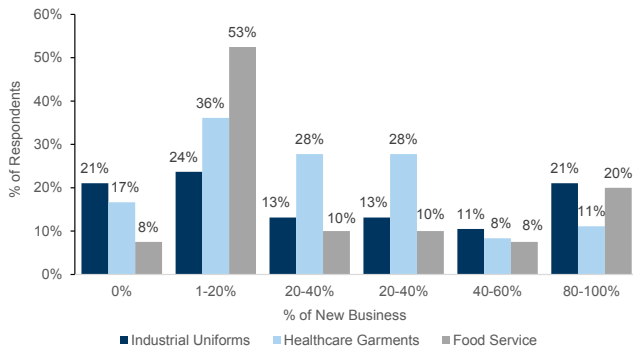
Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Non-programmer market a key driver of volume growth. Volume growth in uniform & linen rentals can arise from existing customers, new customers due to competitive wins and new customers due to penetration of the no-programmer market, which refers to customers that use or could use uniforms or linens but that don't participate in a rental program currently. Survey participants expect new business wins over the next six months to come from the no-programmer market 38% of the time in industrials, 32% of the time in food services and 26% of the time in healthcare. Survey results

come modestly below performance at CTAS, where the majority of volume growth comes from the no-programmer market, suggesting larger operators have more success in penetrating the unvended market. We estimate 60% of the North American market for uniform rentals is unvended and composed of no-programmers, pointing to a long runway for growth from this channel.

Exhibit 9: No-programmer market expected to drive over one-third of new business growth

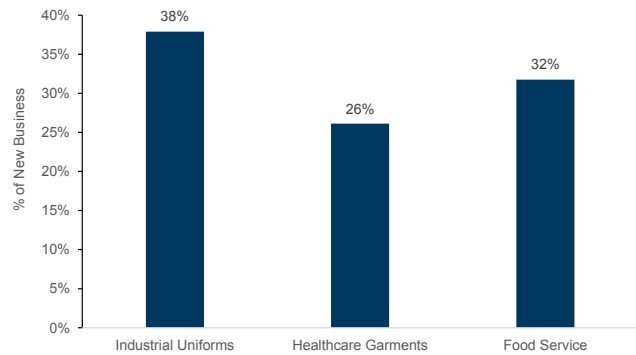
Proportion of their own companies’ new business in the next six months expected to come from prospects not currently renting



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 10: The industrial vertical expected to see the most new business growth from no-programmers

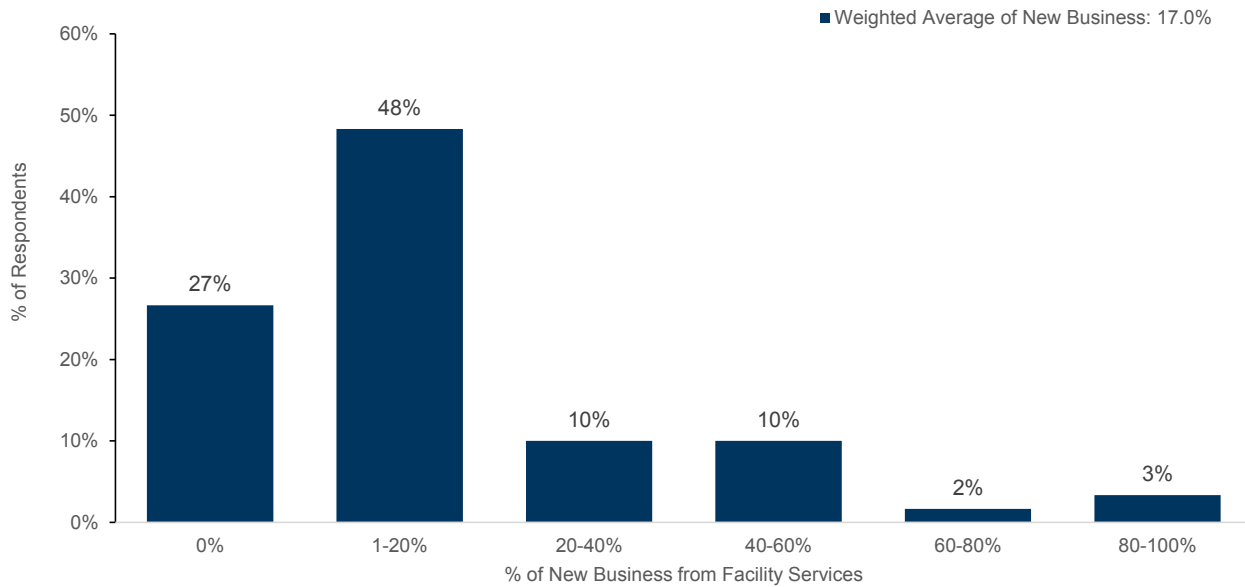
% of new business from no-programmers in the next six months by end-markets



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Facility services to contribute incrementally to new business growth. Facility services represent an incremental contributor to overall new business growth across TRSA’s membership base. Facility services encompass hygiene, first aid, cleaning chemicals, restroom supplies, dust control and fire safety. Survey participants expect 17% of new business growth to originate from facility services over the next six months, either due to cross-selling facility services with uniform & linen rentals or selling facility services as a pure-play offering. Of those surveyed, 48% expect 1-20% of new business growth from facility services and 27% expect no new business growth from facility services over the next six months. Drivers of facility services demand include an increased focus on hygiene and cleanliness post-COVID. By vertical, survey participants expect facility services to contribute most to new business growth in industrials, followed by food & beverage, healthcare and hospitality. At CTAS, facility services represent approximately half of the uniform rental & facility services segment and are contributing to healthy growth trends, while first aid & safety revenue has generally outgrown the uniform rentals business, with recent performance lifted by strong growth in first aid cabinets.

Exhibit 11: Most respondents expect facility services to contribute 0-20% to new business growth
 Percentage of their own companies' new business over the next six months expected to arise from facility services

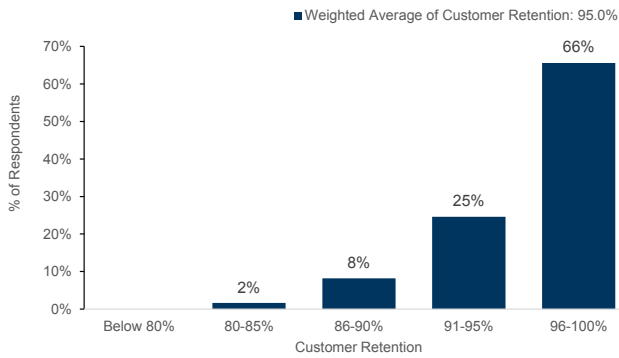


Facility services include hygiene, first aid, cleaning chemicals, restroom supplies, dust control and fire safety.

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

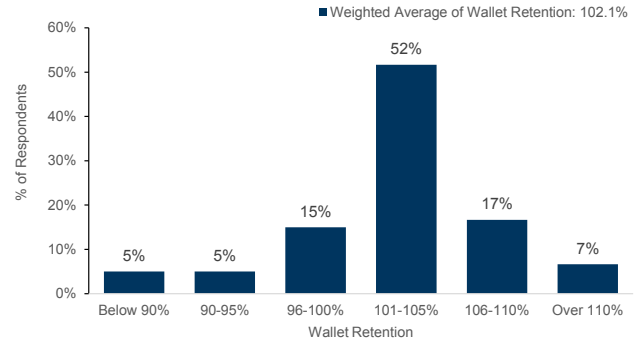
Outlook for customer retention and wallet retention is robust. Survey results point to a robust outlook for customer retention and wallet retention over the next six months despite macro uncertainty, reflecting resilience in the industry and the essentialness of services provided. Respondents on average expect customer retention to be a healthy 95% over the next six months, with 66% anticipating their customer retention to be in a range of 96-100%. The strong customer retention outlook is consistent with performance at CTAS, which has demonstrated its strong value proposition by helping clients reduce operating expenses against a backdrop of elevated inflation. Survey participants expect spending among existing customers to grow on a y/y basis over the next six months, with an average wallet retention outlook of 102%. A total of 75% of respondents expect wallet retention to exceed 100%. We believe increased spending among existing customers will be driven by volume growth, new product launches, cross-sell/upsell and pricing increases. The healthy outlook for customer and wallet retention was broad-based, with 95-96% customer retention and 102-103% wallet retention anticipated across all verticals, on average.

Exhibit 12: Customer retention rates expected to be healthy
Anticipated customer retention rates in the next six months



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 13: Wallet retention expected to exceed 100% in the majority of responses
Anticipated wallet retention rates in the next six months



Wallet retention is the spend among existing customers compared with a previous point in time, reflecting growth (>100%), decline (<100%) or leveling (100%)

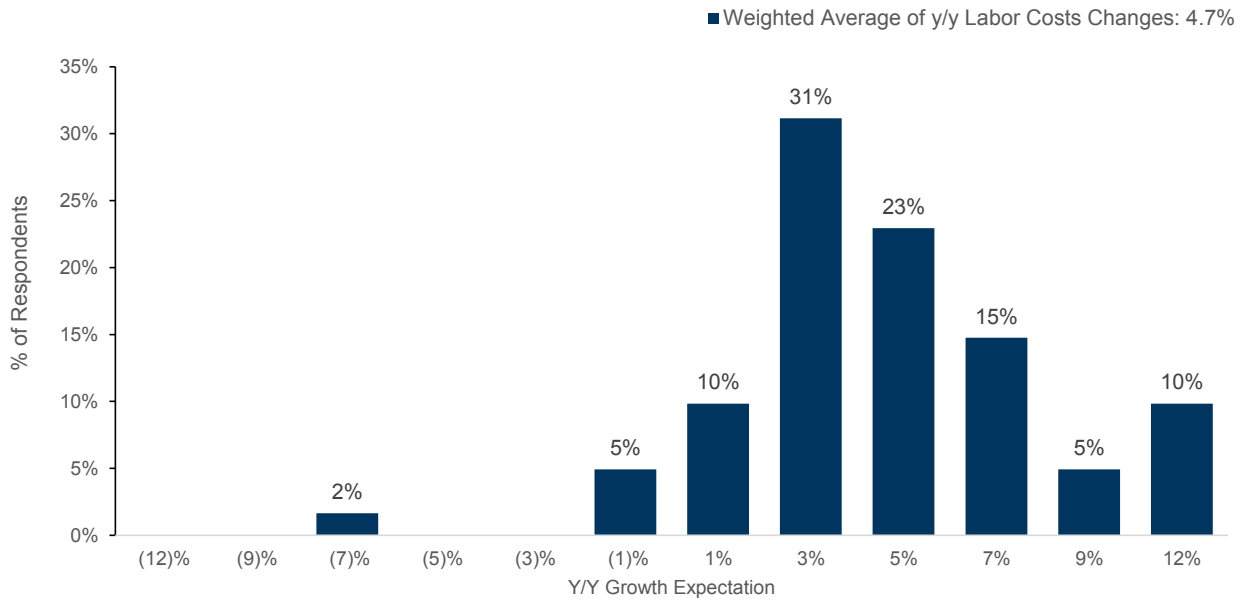
Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Cost Outlook

Labor costs expected to rise faster than inflation. Survey participants expect labor costs to grow above the current rate of inflation over the next six months, which would weigh on profitability in the industry. Respondents on average expect labor costs to increase 4.7% y/y over the next six months, with over half anticipating growth north of 4%. This compares with current inflation of 3.7% in the US. Average expectations for labor cost growth in the industry also come fractionally above overall average hourly wage growth of 4.3% in August as reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. We attribute elevated expectations for labor cost growth to worker demands for higher wages in an inflationary environment and labor shortages, though labor market tightness has demonstrated signs of easing in recent months. By vertical, respondents expect labor cost growth over the next six months to be highest in food & beverage, followed by healthcare, industrial and hospitality. To mitigate the negative effects of rising labor costs, CTAS is leveraging technology improvements, such as smart routing and delivery tracking, to increase automation and reduce labor dependency.

Exhibit 14: Over the next six months, labor costs are expected to grow mid-single-digits...

Expectations for labor cost changes in the next six months

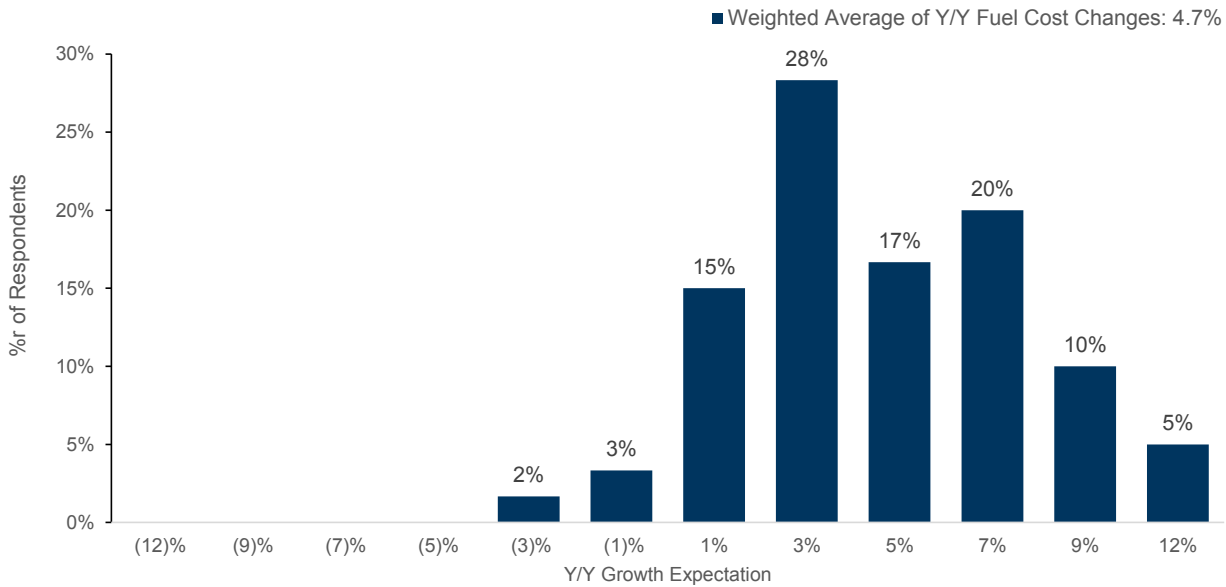


Midpoint of survey ranges highlighted in exhibit

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Fuel costs to increase over near term. In addition to labor cost growth, respondents expect fuel costs to rise over the near-term. Survey participants anticipate fuel costs will increase an average of 4.7% y/y over the next six months, identical to labor cost growth expectations. Fifty-two percent of respondents expect fuel costs to grow north of 5% y/y over the next six months. Survey results diverge from forecast by GS commodity analysts for y/y declines in both WTI and Brent crude oil prices in 3Q and 4Q 2023. Fuel prices were expected to increase the most in hospitality, followed by food & beverage, hospitality and healthcare. At CTAS, fuel costs are not hedged or automatically passed on to customers in the form of fuel surcharges. Instead, rising energy costs are mitigated by unit pricing increases, which involves inherent forecasting risk but carries the benefit of not reversing when energy prices trend lower.

Exhibit 15: ...as are fuel costs over the same time frame
 Expectations for fuel cost changes in the next six months



Midpoint of survey ranges highlighted in exhibit

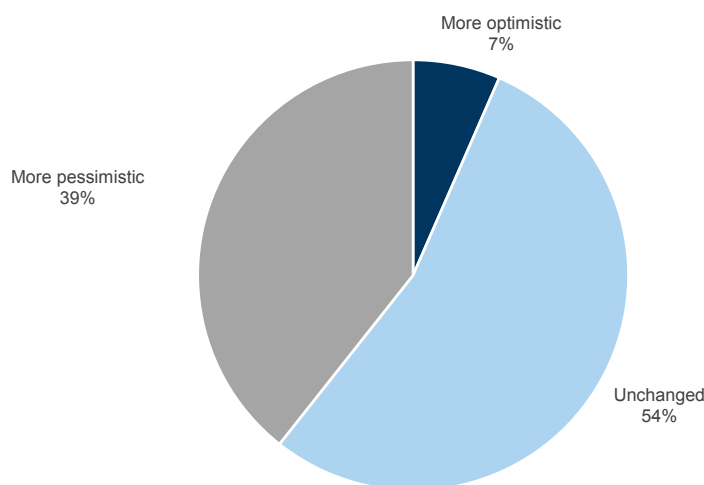
Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Macro and Industry Outlook

US macro outlook stable. Survey respondents had a largely stable view of the broader macro environment, with 54% indicating that their outlook for the US economy over the next six months had remained unchanged over the past 90 days and 7% pointing to a more optimistic outlook. Respondents with a focus on healthcare had the most optimistic macro outlook, along with those focused on food & beverage. From a macro perspective, respondents were encouraged by a solid labor market, growth in consumer spending, supply chain improvements and an increase in travel activity. Executives and managers were concerned about labor market tightness, inflation, interest rates, an uncertain macro outlook and a resurgence of COVID. We note that CTAS' F2024 guidance assumes a stable economy with no significant economic disruptions or downturns. Accordingly, survey results pointing to a stable macro outlook reinforce our view that CTAS can deliver on its guidance.

Exhibit 16: Respondents have mostly had a stable outlook for the US economy

Change in the macro outlook over the past 90 days



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 17: Respondents encouraged by the labor market, consumer spending, supply chain improvements and travel activity

What respondents are most positive and negative on with macro trends over the next six months, considering developments over the past 90 days

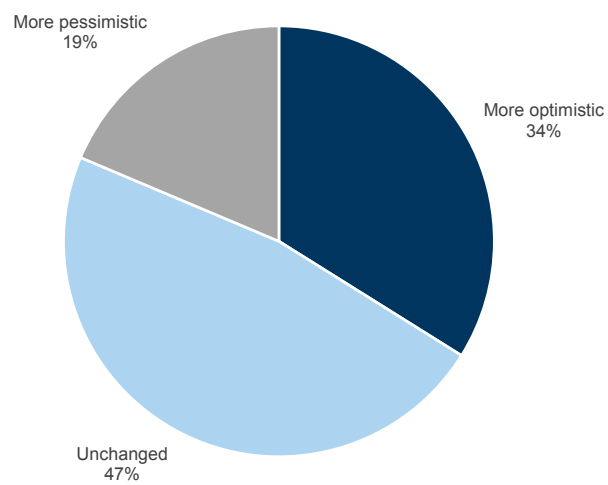
Positives	Negatives
Labor market solid. The labor market appears solid with a low unemployment rate and job openings that remain above pre-COVID levels.	Tight labor market. The labor market remains tight, making it difficult to recruit employees and scale the business.
Economy growing. The US economy continues to grow and the Fed's interest rate actions have not led to a recession so far.	Inflation remains elevated. Despite progress with inflation coming down, it remains well above historical levels, putting strain on customers.
Political visibility. As the next election approaches, visibility should improve on the political landscape and accompanying legislative and regulatory developments.	Input costs high. Related to elevated inflation, input costs including energy and payroll are high, dampening profitability.
Consumer spending. Consumer spending is growing, which is contributing to economic growth.	Interest rate policy. The Fed's interest rate policy is potentially slowing economic growth too much due to the lagged policy effect, while also raising borrowing costs.
Inflation trends improving. The Fed's interest rate hikes are having the intended effect of bringing down inflation, which is beneficial for input costs and the broader economy.	Union activity. Unions are increasing the collective bargaining power of labor, ultimately increasing payroll costs.
Interest rates nearing peak. The Fed's interest rate increases appear to be coming to an end, which should help decelerate growth in the cost of capital.	Small businesses under pressure. Small businesses are going out of business, putting pressure on the economy.
Supply chain. Issues around supply chain bottlenecks and material shortages appear to be a thing of the past.	Recurring pandemic. COVID cases are rising again in certain regions and putting pressure on economic activity.
Travel activity up. Both business travel and leisure travel are up, contributing to hospitality demand for rental and facility services.	Economic uncertainty. It is unclear if the US is entering a recession or is already in one.

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Broader business trends are positive in rental and facility services. Reflecting healthy trends in the uniform & linen rental and facility services industry, survey participants' outlook for business operations over the next six months improved to a greater extent than that of the broader macro environment over the past 90 days. Of those surveyed, 47% noted their outlook for business trends were unchanged while 34% indicated that their outlook was more optimistic. From an end-market perspective,

companies with a focus on hospitality demonstrated greater optimism on business trends due to increased travel activity. Positive commentary from survey participants on business trends outnumbered negative commentary by factor of 2-to-1. As it relates to business trends, respondents were positive on new business growth, the pace of cross-sell/upsell, product innovation, healthy pricing increases and improved internal hiring trends. Areas of caution with business trends included competition, input costs, labor shortages, the macro environment and difficulty in raising capital. Results reinforce trends at CTAS, specifically, robust organic revenue growth driven by penetration of the no-programmer market, increased cross-selling to existing customers and pricing gains, with the broader selling environment remaining stable.

Exhibit 18: The outlook for business trends has been stable-to-positive
Change in the business outlook over the past 90 days



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

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Exhibit 19: Respondents positive on new business, cross-sell/upsell, product innovation, pricing and internal hiring

What respondents are most positive and negative on with business trends over the next six months, considering developments over the past 90 days

Positives	Negatives
Increased cross-selling. Higher cross-selling activity is lifting overall revenue growth.	Big 3 competition. The largest providers of uniform & linen rental and facility services in North America continue to represent strong competition to smaller providers.
Sales headcount growth. Sales headcount is expanding for managers and quota-bearing individuals, driving higher sales activity.	Input costs. Input costs, including fuel, equipment repair, transportation, logistics and labor costs, are rising and cutting into profitability.
Labor market loosening. It is becoming easier to hire across the organization due to a loosening labor market.	Labor shortage. While easier to hire than before, labor remains a constraining factor for growth.
End-market recovery. The hospitality, healthcare and food & beverage verticals are recovering nicely.	Macro environment. A slowing macro environment and potential recession are negatively impacting growth prospects.
New business trends. Revenues from new customers are experiencing positive growth trends, with RFP activity up.	Raising capital. Due to volatile debt markets and a high cost of capital, it is difficult to obtain funding to drive growth.
Pricing increases healthy. Customers are paying more for quality and not pushing back on pricing given the inflationary environment.	
Penetrating the unvented market. Customers are increasingly outsourcing their rental and facility services needs in order to save money.	
Competitive wins. Companies are seeing market share gains from competitors that are underperforming.	
New product innovation. New product launches and subsequent uptake from customers are contributing to revenue growth.	

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Investment Recommendation

CTAS an attractive compounder in Business Services. We believe Cintas is well-positioned to deliver healthy revenue and earnings growth in the current environment, with the company seeing no elongation of sales cycles, consistent retention rates coming above pre-COVID levels, strong pricing power that more than offsets input cost inflation, and effective penetration of the no-programmer market for uniform rentals. We expect organic revenue growth to be healthy in the 7%+ range in F2024, with the healthcare, education and government verticals being particular focus areas for growth. Operating margins should also expand over the next year reflecting benefits from pricing, operating leverage, efficiencies, revenue mix and the recently announced Google technology partnership.

F1Q 2024 preview. We expect CTAS to deliver revenue of \$2,166mn in F1Q, representing 7.9% y/y organic revenue growth that comes above the pre-COVID range of 6-7% driven by attractive pricing power and resilient volume growth from both new and existing customers. By segment, we forecast organic revenue growth to be 8% y/y in uniform rentals, 9% in first aid & safety and 6.5% in all other. As in prior quarters, we look for first aid & safety revenue to benefit from strong growth in the first aid cabinet business, which is more recurring in nature and has higher margins. We expect

operating margins to expand 20 bps y/y to 20.5% driven by pricing flow-through, operating leverage, efficiency gains and lower energy costs. Our EPS forecast for F1Q is \$3.49. We note that CTAS' full year F2024 EPS will be impacted by a higher tax rate of 21.3% compared to 20.4% in F2023, partially mitigated by lower interest expense of approximately \$100mn compared to \$110mn in F2023 due to lower variable rate debt.

Valuation and Risks

We are raising our 12-month price target from \$566 to \$592 based on 24.0x (23.0x prior) our NTM +1 YR EBITDA estimate of \$2,604mn (unchanged), NTM net debt of \$2,102mn and NTM shares outstanding of 102.1mn. We raise our target multiple to reflect our increased conviction in CTAS' revenue growth outlook following results from this survey. Our target multiple represents a premium to the Business Services peer group median of 8.8x to reflect CTAS' stronger organic revenue growth outlook, track record of execution and market share leadership.

Risks to the downside include protracted headwinds from COVID-19, cyclical exposure, acquisition integration risk, energy-related risk and financial leverage.

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

We, George K. Tong, CFA, Anna Wu, Sami Nasir, CFA and Alex Lakritz, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect our personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. We also certify that no part of our compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

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For a more detailed description of how we calculate the GS Factor Profile, please contact your GS representative.

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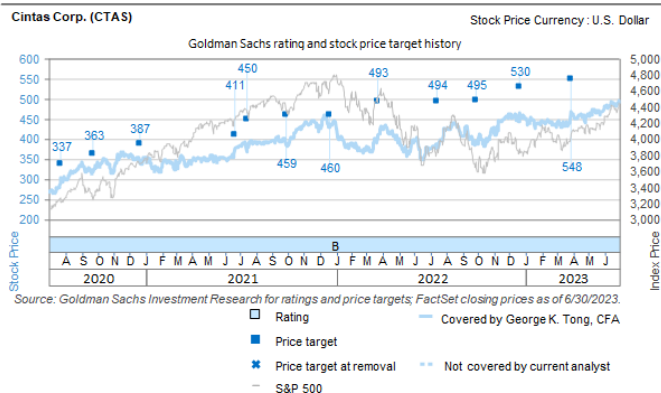
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