



## Equity Research

### Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

LEH: Tough Year Ahead--Sowing Seeds For Share Gains

- **LOW- TO MID-TEEN ROE IS RESPECTABLE.** We recently held a client meeting with new CFO Erin Callan. The overall tone of the meeting was cautious given the challenging operating environment. However, we believe LEH is well positioned to capitalize once market conditions ease. We expect 2008 ROE in the low- to mid-teens in light of current market conditions; we find this respectable given how competitors have experienced dilution via capital infusions and have aggressively marked down assets.
- **CRE AND CDS EXPOSURES SEEM MANAGEABLE.** Commercial mortgage-related exposure at the end of 4Q was approximately \$40bn. However, portfolio characteristics are stable (2 year average life, 2/3 of portfolio has LTVs under 60%, vast majority is floating rate, strong diversity with 50% in US, 25% in Europe and 25% in Asia). In CDS, 95% of counterparties are investment grade. Counterparties post collateral and are marked to market on a daily basis. The only exception to collateral posting is the monolines. However, LEH has utilized intermediaries to offset the risk and historically has done little with firms that do not post collateral.
- **MARKET SHARE GAINS IN ADVISORY AND PRIME BROKERAGE.** LEH sees opportunities to gain market share as competitors continue to struggle. Market share opportunities are apparent in advisory. Stability at LEH is an attractive selling point to banking clients. LEH is also seeing market share gains in prime brokerage. Similar to LEH's advisory clients, hedge fund clients are positioning their business to prime brokerages that have solid operations despite the market downturn. We note after the 2001-2003 recession, LEH gained meaningful market share as it kept its business intact during the bear market. We envision a similar scenario manifesting over time.
- **BALANCE SHEET FLEXIBILITY IS KEY.** LEH is more focused on balance sheet flexibility and liquidity. Capital allocation is critical at this juncture, in our view, since many LEH businesses see opportunities given the market dislocation. LEH does not need to raise equity like some of its competition.

#### Valuation Range: \$71 to \$72

We believe the stock will trade in a range of \$71-72 per share based on a multiple of 1.8x estimated Q1 2008 book value. Risks to this valuation range include a material decline in primary and secondary debt markets and decreased penetration in European markets.

#### Investment Thesis:

LEH remains well positioned to benefit from a favorable interest rate environment as well as a recovery in the IPO and advisory markets, in our view.

## Outperform

Sector: Brokers, Market Weight  
January 15, 2008

### Company Note

EPS	2007A	2008E		2009E	
		Curr.	Prior	Curr.	Prior
Q1 (Feb.)	\$1.96	\$1.70	NC	\$1.80	NC
Q2 (May)	2.21	1.79	NC	1.75	NC
Q3 (Aug.)	1.54	1.78	NC	2.00	NC
Q4 (Nov.)	1.54	1.66	NC	1.83	NC
FY	\$7.26	\$6.92	NC	\$7.38	NC
CY	NE	NE		NE	
FY P/E	7.7x	8.1x		7.6x	
Rev.(MM)	\$19,257.0	\$19,159.0		\$19,594.0	

Source: Company Data, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC estimates, and Reuters  
NA = Not Available, NC = No Change, NE = No Estimate, NM = Not Meaningful

Ticker	LEH
Price (01/15/2008)	\$55.71
52-Week Range:	\$49-87
Shares Outstanding: (MM)	564.0
Market Cap.: (MM)	\$31,420.4
S&P 500:	1,381.77
Dividend/Yield:	\$0.48/0.9%
LT Debt: (MM)	\$119,744.0
LT Debt/Total Cap.:	84.6%
ROE:	17.0%
3-5 Yr. Est. Growth Rate:	13.0%
CY 2008 Est. P/E-to-Growth:	NM
Last Reporting Date:	12/13/2007
	<i>Before Open</i>

Source: Company Data, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC estimates, and Reuters

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**Company Description:**

Spun out from American Express in 1994, Lehman Brothers is now one of the leading global investment banks, serving institutional, corporate, government and high-net-worth individuals throughout the world.

**MID-TEEN ROE IS RESPECTABLE.** We recently held a client meeting with new CFO Erin Callan. The overall tone of the meeting was cautious given the challenging operating environment. However, we believe LEH is well positioned to capitalize once market conditions ease. We expect 2008 ROE in the low- to mid-teens in light of current market conditions; we find this respectable given how competitors have experienced dilution via capital infusions and have aggressively marked down assets. We do not expect LEH to raise equity like some competitors.

**MARKET SHARE GAINS IN ADVISORY AND PRIME BROKERAGE.** LEH sees opportunities to gain market share as competitors continue to struggle. Market share opportunities are apparent in advisory. Stability at LEH is an attractive selling point to banking clients. LEH is also seeing market share gains in prime brokerage. Similar to LEH's advisory clients, hedge fund clients are positioning their business to prime brokerages that have solid operations despite the market downturn. In addition, LEH is well positioned for financial equity offerings considering its leading industry ranking. While likely less visible now, we do believe market share gains will become more apparent when conditions improve. We note after the 2001-2003 recession, LEH gained meaningful market share as it kept its business intact during the bear market. We envision a similar scenario manifesting over time.

**CRE AND CDS EXPOSURES SEEM MANAGEABLE.** Commercial mortgage-related exposure at the end of 4Q was approximately \$40bn. However, portfolio characteristics are stable (2 year average life, 2/3 of portfolio has LTVs under 60%, vast majority is floating rate, strong diversity with 50% in US, 25% in Europe and 25% in Asia). In terms of CRE exposure, LEH has about \$20bn in whole loans, \$10bn in CMBS securities, and the remaining in various assets such as mezzanine loans. Management stressed that despite the poor recent CMBX performance, LEH's CMBS assets will not be marked to the same magnitude. Only 5-7% of the portfolio is marked against the CMBX. Actual individual trades in the market are performing better than the CMBX, and LEH primarily uses specific trades as a proxy for mark to market purposes.

Management also gave some additional color on the CDS market. Conceding that LEH is a major player in the space, management nonetheless believes that certain measures are in place to limit counterparty risk. As disclosed on the Q4 earnings call, 95% of counterparties are investment grade. Secondly, counterparties post collateral and are marked to market on a daily basis. The only exception to collateral posting is the monolines. However, LEH has utilized intermediaries to offset the risk and historically has done little with firms that do not post collateral.

It is no surprise that the Fixed Income business will likely struggle in 2008. LEH looks to offset poor performance in structured products and private equity with strength in credit trading, interest rate products, and commodities.

**BALANCE SHEET FLEXIBILITY IS KEY.** LEH is more focused on balance sheet flexibility and liquidity. Capital allocation is critical at this juncture, in our view, since many LEH businesses see opportunities given the market dislocation. Obtaining unsecured financing is difficult in the current environment. LEH has opted for shorter term capital at wider spreads in the interim. As evidence of this, LEH raised \$4bn in five-year senior MTNs on January 15. Management mentioned that the \$4bn debt offering represents 20% of LEH's total funding needs for 2008.

**TOUGH TIMES BUT WE THINK DISLOCATION WILL BENEFIT LEH IN THE LONG RUN.** 2008 is shaping up to be a tough year across the board. However, we believe by keeping the balance sheet, culture, and talent intact, LEH has a terrific opportunity to take share from some of its competition. These are the periods where meaningful share gains are had. They usually do not come in bull markets.

## Required Disclosures



	Date	Publication Price (\$)	Rating Code	Val. Rng. Low	Val. Rng. High	Close Price (\$)
	1/5/2005		Sipkin			
	1/5/2005	NA	1	46.00	48.00	42.47
●	1/10/2005	NA	1	47.50	49.50	43.69
●	3/16/2005	NA	1	52.50	55.00	46.20
●	7/20/2005	NA	1	60.00	62.50	52.90
●	12/6/2005	NA	1	65.00	67.50	63.08
●	1/10/2006	NA	1	68.50	71.00	65.27
●	3/3/2006	NA	1	73.50	76.50	73.35
●	3/15/2006	NA	1	75.50	77.50	71.58
●	4/5/2006	NA	1	82.50	85.00	73.72
□	4/28/2006		2:1 stock split			
▼ ●	5/2/2006	NA	2	73.00	76.00	72.33
●	6/13/2006	NA	2	68.00	72.00	59.11
●	9/14/2006	NA	2	71.00	73.00	71.79
●	11/2/2006	NA	2	79.00	84.00	75.74
●	2/1/2007	NA	2	88.00	91.00	84.82
▲ ●	3/14/2007	NA	1	84.00	86.00	71.72
●	9/11/2007	53.85	1	66.00	68.00	55.18
●	9/18/2007	64.49	1	71.00	72.00	64.49

Source: Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC estimates and Reuters data

<b>Symbol Key</b>		<b>Rating Code Key</b>	
▼ Rating Downgrade	◆ Initiation, Resumption, Drop or Suspend	1 Outperform/Buy	SR Suspended
▲ Rating Upgrade	■ Analyst Change	2 Market Perform/Hold	NR Not Rated
● Valuation Range Change	□ Split Adjustment	3 Underperform/Sell	NE No Estimate

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**O = Overweight:** Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over the next 12 months.

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**V = A stock is defined as volatile if the stock price has fluctuated by +/-20% or greater in at least 8 of the past 24 months or if the analyst expects significant volatility. All IPO stocks are automatically rated volatile within the first 24 months of trading.**

As of: January 15, 2008

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