

VERSABANK (VBNK-NASDAQ)

Banking
William J. Wallace IV
Tim DeLacey, Research Associate
Taylor DeBey, Research Associate
Please contact your CGS-CIMB representative for additional information.

Crossing Borders Into U.S. With Announcement of OCC-Chartered Bank Acquisition

Event: Earlier this morning, VersaBank (VBNK) announced they have reached a definitive agreement to acquire OCC-Chartered Stearns Bank Holdingford, N.A. ("SBH") headquartered in Holdingford, MN, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Stearn Financial Services, Inc (LINK). Per the acquisition agreement, Versa will acquire SBH through its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary VersaHoldings US Corp and will pay an estimated \$13.5 million USD (\$17.4 million CAD). SBH is expected to add ~\$60 million in total assets to VersaBank and, upon the expected closing in F4Q22 (subject to regulatory approval in both the U.S. and Canada), will be renamed as VersaBank USA National Association. Notably, Versa expects the acquisition to be accretive to earnings within the first year after closing.

Our take: From a strategic perspective, we view the announcement positively for Versa, as the acquisition of an OCC-chartered, U.S. domiciled bank will provide the bank a national lending and deposit gathering platform in the U.S. for which they can accelerate growth in their point-of-sale ("POS") lending program, which recently launched in the U.S. with the recent announcement of its first partner. Additionally, in the longer term, we believe the acquisition of the OCC-charter also provides the bank the initial regulatory framework for the launch of its USD-backed digital depository receipt, VUSD, though we anticipate that Versa will seek to successfully complete the commercial launch its Canadian counterpart, VCAD, before entertaining the idea of launching a USD-backed stablecoin. Ultimately, we believe the acquisition provides Versa the necessary regulatory platform to achieve its aspirations for POS growth in the U.S., which we believe are set to accelerate following the acquisition, though we will look for additional color on the financial impacts of the transaction in our follow-up discussion with management.

JUNE 14, 2022 | 10:14 AM EDT COMPANY BRIEF

Strong E	Buy 1				
Suitability	M	MA/ACC			
MARKET I	DATA				
Current P	Current Price (Jun-14-22)				
Market Ca	Market Cap (mln)				
	Current Net Debt (mln)				
Enterprise				\$230	
Shares Ou		0 .	•	27.4	
30-Day Av	g. Daily '	Value (ı	mln)	\$0.1	
Dividend				\$0.10	
Dividend \				1.3%	
52-Week F	Range		\$7.66 - \$	\$14.30	
BVPS				\$9.73	
Tangible I	BVPS			\$9.08	
KEY FINA	NCIAL M	ETRIC	S		
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	
Non-GAAF 2021A	PEPS (\$,	Oct FY)		
2022E	0.18	0.20	0.20	0.19	
2023E	0.15 A	0.13 A	0.17	0.20	
	0.22	0.22	0.26	0.28	
	202	1A 20	022E	2023E	
Non-GAAF	P EPS (\$,	Oct FY)		
	0.	77	0.65	0.99	
P/E (Non-	GAAP)				
	10.	.3x	12.2x	8.0x	
Revenue (mln) (\$,	Oct FY)			
		53	63	82	
GAAP EPS		•			
		77	0.65	0.99	
Source: Tho	mson One	e, Raymo	ond Jam	es &	

Source: Thomson One, Raymond James & Associates. Quarterly figures may not add to full year due to rounding.

Non-GAAP EPS is operating earnings and excludes securities gains/losses and one-time items.All financial metrics presented in USD.

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1993 with the purchase of Pacific & Western Trust, VersaBank is a Schedule I Canadian bank (license granted in 2002) headquartered in London, Ontario, Canada. VersaBank is a branchless bank with two primary lending segments and two primary funding segments; it is also a technology-forward institution that operates a cybersecurity solutions business through its wholly owned subsidiary, DRT Cyber.



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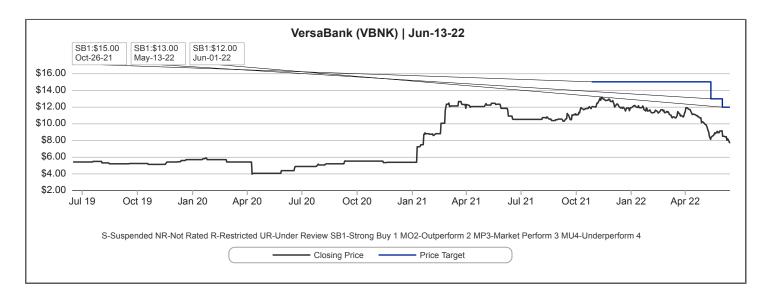
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Valuation Methodology

VersaBank

Our valuation methodology for VersaBank takes into consideration the company's P/E ratio in comparison to comparable P/E ratios from a peer group, as well as the company's tangible book multiple in comparison to tangible book value multiples from a peer group.

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Company Specific Risk Factors

VersaBank

Interest Rate Risk: As a bank holding company, Versa's revenue stream is inherently sensitive to changes in interest rates, and earnings estimates could vary based on the direction and degree of said changes.

Competition Risk: Substantial competition exists in Versa's primary markets from other Schedule I Canadian banks, foreign banks, and specialty finance companies. The level and aggressiveness of competition could lead to adverse pressures on both asset yields and funding costs, which could negatively impact the company's margins and pressure its profitability.

Asset Quality Risk: Asset quality risk is another key consideration when investing in bank stocks. An economic slowdown or prolonged recession on a national or state basis could result in higher nonperforming assets and net charge-offs, which could, in turn, create a shortfall in VersaBank's net income relative to our EPS estimates.

Regulatory Risk: As a Schedule I bank in Canada, Versa is subject to the rules and regulations governing the Canadian banking industry. As such, changing rules and regulation could have an adverse impact on the bank's profitability.

Macroeconomic Risk: Most of Versa's customers are tied to individuals or businesses that are dependent upon the economies in which the bank operates. If unemployment levels rise or the commercial real estate market weakens, credit losses could exceed our expectations, causing downside to our earnings model. Conversely, if unemployment levels decline and the commercial real estate market strengthens meaningfully, there could be upside to our estimates in the form of stronger growth.

Currency Risk: Versa is a Canadian headquartered bank that is trading on the NASDAQ in U.S. dollar denominated securities. As such, an investment in these securities would be subject to currency risk as the exchange rate between the Canadian dollar and the U.S. dollar fluctuates.

Acquisition Risk: As part of its strategy to enter the U.S. market Versa would ultimately require a U.S. bank charter to gather deposits, which it may look to gain through an acquisition of a U.S. based bank holding company. Acquiring a financial services company involves a number of risks, including those related to asset quality issues, loss of customers, entering new and unfamiliar markets, and integration of the acquired bank. In particular, integration poses a number of challenges, as the company may expend substantial resources to integrate acquired entities. Such failure to integrate acquired entities may adversely affect the company's results of operations and financial condition.

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Score Range:	90 - 100	80 - 89	70 - 79	Below 70	No Survey Result
Description:	Excellent	Very Good	Good	N/A	N/A

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