

Rating Buy

North America **United States**

Financial

Brokers, Asset Managers & Exchanges

Company

T. Rowe Price

TROW.OQ

TROW US

Exchange TROW Date 11 July 2018

Company Update

Price at 10 Jul 2018 (USD)	118.74
Price Target	138.00
52-week range	126.24 - 75.16

Brian Bedell, CFA

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Price/price relative



Performance (%)	1m	3m	12m
Absolute	-5.7	11.2	54.1
S&P 500 INDEX	0.5	5.2	15.1
Source: Deutsche Bank			

Catalyst Call - BUY T. Rowe Price

Including supporting charts with our catalyst call

In addition to our catalyst call on TROW published this morning, we are including supporting charts that show TROW's relative performance by Morningstar Category versus peers with the lower percentile & more green color indicating better performance, while higher percentiles & more red color indicate underperformance.

Basis for the short-term investment idea:

T. Rowe Price (TROW) is one of just a few publicly traded asset manager stocks with an improving organic AuM growth profile that appears increasingly sustainable for at least the intermediate-term. This is supported by TROW's relatively strong investment performance, an advantageous competition position in financial advisory distribution channels (based on reduction of funds on industry platforms that puts more money in motion toward better performing and cost-competitive funds like TROW's), and a variety of organic growth initiatives embarked upon over the last 1-2 years, including more aggressive placement on fund distribution platforms & more expansive wholesaling efforts, along with a more concerted asset allocation product construction & marketing effort. Moreover, we are noticing firms with stronger, sustained AuM organic growth rates (e.g. ~3% or above) are commanding higher P/E valuation premiums to peers, a trend that began last year.

Catalysts:

We expect TROW to outperform asset manager peers through at least 2Q earnings season (expected TROW reporting date is July 25), with 2Q results that we think will at least slightly beat Consensus and appear stronger fundamentally than peers. Key areas should be 1) organic AuM growth near 3% vs. 0% for the group on a median basis, 2) op margin expansion of 30bps sequentially and 150bps on a year/year basis, & 3) asset appreciation over 2% in 2Q vs. flattish for the group driven by an asset mix geared to favorable performance areas in 2Q, mainly US equities, growth style, and presence in small-cap (vs. weaker performance in EM, EAFE, global bonds, and many alternative & fixed income strategies). Moreover, TROW mutual fund performance rankings improved in June vs. a downturn in May, thus retaining very strong 1- & 3- year & longer-term performance rankings.

Risks to the short-term investment idea:

Risks to our short-term call are 1) a sharp US equity market downturn, 2) a reversal in substantial growth outperformance vs. value styles in US, 3) much weaker organic growth reported in 20 than expected, & 4) any revision to higher expense growth in 2018 than prior 8-11% mgmt. outlook.

We value the traditional asset managers by assigning a P/E (relative to the S&P 500) on our 2019 EPS ests a year from now, based on assigning a prem/disc to the stock's historical relative P/E (vs. the S&P 500 and ex net excess cash on the balance sheet). Our PT is driven by our view for TROW to trade in line with the S&P 500 as strong active performance & market share gains in the brokerdealer channel should lead to a better organic growth profile than peers.

Long-Term Fundamental Rating: Buy

The views expressed in this report accurately reflect the personal views of the undersigned lead analyst(s) about the subject issuer and the securities of the issuer. In addition, the undersigned lead analyst(s) has not and will not receive any compensation for providina specific recommendation or view in this report. I have reflected on the report and that the Regulation disclosure is accurate.

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Distributed on: 11/07/2018 11:57:42 GMT

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TROW Relative Perf. Charts

Figure 1: TROW Asset-Weighted Quarterly Morningstar Rank by Morningstar Category (includes category ranks on a 1-month basis for April, May, June)

	_	Asset-Weighted Quarterly Morningstar Category Rank															
Morningstar Category	2017 AUM (\$mn)	1Q15	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	2Q16	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	Apr	May	June
US Fund Large Growth	124,869	10%	42%	20%	12%	85%	70%	17%	44%	16%	9%	30%	47%	19%	16%	67%	41%
US Fund Large Value	52,880	61%	52%	77%	14%	41%	48%	38%	58%	37%	20%	50%	57%	38%	56%	84%	41%
US Fund Small Growth	41,711	56%	73%	14%	18%	32%	33%	64%	57%	37%	41%	45%	57%	30%	81%	74%	25%
US Fund Mid-Cap Growth	37,571	26%	30%	6%	12%	34%	57%	60%	45%	32%	21%	53%	85%	21%	71%	93%	61%
US Fund Allocation50% to 70% Equity	35,810	4%	10%	14%	10%	25%	27%	53%	74%	5%	5%	62%	70%	6%	29%	61%	13%
US Fund Intermediate-Term Bond	33,976	32%	60%	36%	35%	43%	44%	63%	85%	53%	34%	48%	25%	54%	66%	63%	41%
US Fund Target-Date 2030	30,476	9%	22%	69%	8%	57%	79%	2%	58%	2%	1%	20%	72%	3%	43%	81%	19%
US Fund Target-Date 2020	27,520	13%	7%	79%	1%	51%	60%	2%	51%	2%	3%	14%	43%	5%	43%	75%	25%
US Fund Target-Date 2025	23,729	6%	15%	74%	1%	54%	77%	2%	54%	2%	3%	15%	59%	4%	55%	85%	13%
US Fund Target-Date 2040	21,753	6%	22%	71%	5%	60%	77%	2%	64%	2%	1%	32%	84%	4%	54%	91%	12%
US Fund Target-Date 2035	18,475	2%	22%	66%	6%	59%	81%	3%	69%	2%	1%	29%	79%	3%	42%	91%	6%
US Fund Foreign Large Blend	18,456	28%	43%	60%	83%	35%	61%	30%	26%	26%	23%	21%	83%	24%	38%	50%	42%
US Fund Foreign Large Growth	15,986	20%	43%	83%	67%	27%	49%	22%	24%	28%	71%	76%	77%	38%	85%	74%	47%
US Fund Foreign Large Value	14,077	66%	9%	64%	63%	32%	60%	35%	90%	47%	27%	60%	93%	33%	69%	89%	45%
US Fund Mid-Cap Value	13,980	46%	18%	47%	38%	3%	14%	59%	40%	59%	81%	53%	53%	13%	11%	81%	15%
Total	511,271	24%	36%	43%	19%	51%	57%	30%	55%	22%	18%	39%	60%	21%	45%	75%	33%
% of Total Observable Active MF ALIM	69%																

Source: Deutsche Bank, Morningstar Direct

Figure 2: TROW Asset-Weighted Quarterly Morningstar Rank by Morningstar Category

		Asset-weighted Quarterly Morningstar Category Rank													
Morningstar Category	2017 AUM (\$mn)	1Q15	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	2Q16	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	2Q18
US Fund Large Growth	124,869	10%	42%	20%	12%	85%	70%	17%	44%	16%	9%	30%	47%	19%	37%
US Fund Large Value	52,880	61%	52%	77%	14%	41%	48%	38%	58%	37%	20%	50%	57%	38%	66%
US Fund Small Growth	41,711	56%	73%	14%	18%	32%	33%	64%	57%	37%	41%	45%	57%	30%	63%
US Fund Mid-Cap Growth	37,571	26%	30%	6%	12%	34%	57%	60%	45%	32%	21%	53%	85%	21%	92%
US Fund Allocation50% to 70% Equity	35,810	4%	10%	14%	10%	25%	27%	53%	74%	5%	5%	62%	70%	6%	26%
US Fund Intermediate-Term Bond	33,976	32%	60%	36%	35%	43%	44%	63%	85%	53%	34%	48%	25%	54%	65%
US Fund Target-Date 2030	30,476	9%	22%	69%	8%	57%	79%	2%	58%	2%	1%	20%	72%	3%	64%
US Fund Target-Date 2020	27,520	13%	7%	79%	1%	51%	60%	2%	51%	2%	3%	14%	43%	5%	68%
US Fund Target-Date 2025	23,729	6%	15%	74%	1%	54%	77%	2%	54%	2%	3%	15%	59%	4%	65%
US Fund Target-Date 2040	21,753	6%	22%	71%	5%	60%	77%	2%	64%	2%	1%	32%	84%	4%	63%
US Fund Target-Date 2035	18,475	2%	22%	66%	6%	59%	81%	3%	69%	2%	1%	29%	79%	3%	54%
US Fund Foreign Large Blend	18,456	28%	43%	60%	83%	35%	61%	30%	26%	26%	23%	21%	83%	24%	39%
US Fund Foreign Large Growth	15,986	20%	43%	83%	67%	27%	49%	22%	24%	28%	71%	76%	77%	38%	83%
US Fund Foreign Large Value	14,077	66%	9%	64%	63%	32%	60%	35%	90%	47%	27%	60%	93%	33%	77%
US Fund Mid-Cap Value	13,980	46%	18%	47%	38%	3%	14%	59%	40%	59%	81%	53%	53%	13%	20%
Total	511,271	24%	36%	43%	19%	51%	57%	30%	55%	22%	18%	39%	60%	21%	56%
% of Total Observable Active MF AUM	69%														

Source: Deutsche Bank, Morningstar Direct

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Figure 3: TROW Asset-Weighted 1-Year Morningstar Rank by Morningstar Category

	_	Asset-Weighted 1-Year Morningstar Ca						star Category Rank							
Morningstar Category	2017 AUM (\$mn)	1Q15	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	2Q16	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	2Q18
US Fund Large Growth	124,869	24%	19%	13%	7%	38%	53%	49%	64%	12%	6%	6%	12%	14%	23%
US Fund Large Value	52,880	57%	61%	69%	53%	44%	44%	21%	49%	45%	35%	36%	34%	35%	59%
US Fund Small Growth	41,711	34%	56%	37%	27%	16%	13%	23%	48%	38%	46%	35%	38%	37%	44%
US Fund Mid-Cap Growth	37,571	5%	7%	2%	3%	5%	9%	22%	43%	47%	31%	27%	40%	35%	75%
US Fund Allocation 50% to 70% Equity	35,810	7%	8%	9%	3%	7%	10%	9%	35%	22%	20%	19%	19%	18%	19%
US Fund Intermediate-Term Bond	33,976	37%	46%	43%	39%	38%	28%	45%	60%	65%	67%	63%	38%	36%	48%
US Fund Target-Date 2030	30,476	14%	18%	34%	7%	25%	55%	10%	39%	10%	4%	7%	4%	6%	17%
US Fund Target-Date 2020	27,520	14%	19%	46%	12%	33%	54%	2%	14%	7%	3%	4%	1%	3%	10%
US Fund Target-Date 2025	23,729	12%	14%	46%	6%	34%	50%	2%	20%	8%	1%	2%	2%	3%	13%
US Fund Target-Date 2040	21,753	16%	16%	27%	4%	24%	54%	16%	58%	14%	2%	9%	6%	6%	25%
US Fund Target-Date 2035	18,475	9%	13%	30%	4%	25%	49%	14%	56%	13%	5%	9%	7%	8%	23%
US Fund Foreign Large Blend	18,456	26%	29%	43%	67%	58%	62%	50%	27%	26%	17%	15%	30%	27%	24%
US Fund Foreign Large Growth	15,986	19%	30%	67%	72%	61%	52%	25%	8%	15%	19%	40%	66%	75%	87%
US Fund Foreign Large Value	14,077	47%	28%	47%	54%	38%	55%	42%	71%	79%	72%	77%	68%	67%	87%
US Fund Mid-Cap Value	13,980	43%	47%	50%	32%	11%	15%	3%	8%	30%	66%	65%	68%	44%	21%
Total	511,271	25%	28%	32%	21%	31%	40%	27%	46%	27%	23%	23%	24%	24%	36%
% of Total Observable Active MF AUM	69%														

Source: Deutsche Bank, Morningstar Direct

Figure 4: TROW Asset-Weighted 3-Year Morningstar Rank by Morningstar Category

		Asset-Weighted 3-Year Morningstar Category Rank													
Morningstar Category	2017 AUM (\$mn)	1Q15	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	2Q16	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	2Q18
US Fund Large Growth	124,869	15%	17%	12%	9%	12%	19%	21%	29%	13%	8%	9%	7%	10%	11%
US Fund Large Value	52,880	42%	42%	49%	45%	44%	43%	43%	52%	52%	47%	44%	44%	41%	47%
US Fund Small Growth	41,711	15%	31%	19%	18%	10%	9%	11%	16%	15%	18%	26%	26%	24%	23%
US Fund Mid-Cap Growth	37,571	8%	9%	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%	7%	12%	28%
US Fund Allocation 50% to 70% Equity	35,810	7%	5%	7%	7%	6%	5%	6%	9%	6%	4%	3%	2%	3%	4%
US Fund Intermediate-Term Bond	33,976	55%	57%	51%	49%	45%	35%	35%	47%	49%	46%	52%	47%	51%	48%
US Fund Target-Date 2030	30,476	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%	8%	4%	3%	1%	2%	4%	2%
US Fund Target-Date 2020	27,520	3%	1%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	6%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
US Fund Target-Date 2025	23,729	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
US Fund Target-Date 2040	21,753	4%	1%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	16%	5%	3%	4%	6%	5%	7%
US Fund Target-Date 2035	18,475	5%	2%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	13%	6%	4%	2%	4%	5%	7%
US Fund Foreign Large Blend	18,456	26%	26%	32%	39%	32%	38%	37%	33%	26%	25%	25%	33%	32%	30%
US Fund Foreign Large Growth	15,986	59%	59%	67%	65%	44%	30%	23%	11%	12%	17%	36%	43%	49%	59%
US Fund Foreign Large Value	14,077	49%	33%	31%	37%	34%	32%	29%	48%	56%	54%	61%	80%	79%	87%
US Fund Mid-Cap Value	13,980	41%	43%	61%	50%	17%	7%	9%	8%	10%	21%	31%	21%	19%	14%
Total	511,271	20%	21%	20%	19%	17%	17%	17%	23%	18%	16%	18%	18%	19%	21%
% of Total Observable Active MF AUM	69%														

Source: Deutsche Bank, Morningstar Direct

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Investment Thesis

Outlook

We see TROW as among the most consistent stories in asset management with a stronger market position than perceived for the following reasons: 1) major stronghold in defined contribution in both DC investment-only and a 401k administration business that provides good sale/redemption dynamics including high rollover recapture rates, 2) potential to increase market share in the broker-dealer space as industrywide brokerage platform product rationalization has favored TROW funds, 3) excellent position in 'solutions' growth area via scalable and efficient target date products, 4) solid investment culture & track record with improving ability to achieve alpha via expanded investment staff globally, & 5) long-tenured proven mgmt, team with relatively simple and straightforward business model. Key catalysts for the stock over next 12 months are: 1) consistent low-single digit organic growth, 2) continued strong relative performance versus peers, & 3) renewed investor appetite for actively-managed products. Our Buy rating reflects our view for TROW's relative valuation to improve to a market multiple as the market will reward the firm's superior organic growth versus peers.

Valuation

We value the traditional asset manager stocks by assigning a P/E (relative to the S&P 500) on our 2019 EPS estimates a year from now, based on assigning a premium or discount to the stock's historical relative P/E (vs. the S&P 500 and ex net excess cash on the balance sheet). Our PT is driven by our view for TROW to trade in line with the S&P 500 as strong active performance & market share gains in the broker-dealer channel should lead to a better organic growth profile than peers.

Risks

Downside risks are: 1) an equity market downturn, 2) much worse outflows than expected or larger market shift from active to passive products, 3) prolonged poor relative performance across several strategies, 4) a shift in investor demand from growth equity to value strategies, & 5) loss of key personnel.



Appendix 1

Important Disclosures

*Other information available upon request

Disclosure checklist			
Company	Ticker	Recent price*	Disclosure
T. Rowe Price	TROW.OQ	118.74 (USD) 10 Jul 18	2,14,15

Prices are current as of the end of the previous trading session unless otherwise indicated and are sourced from local exchanges via Reuters, Bloomberg and other vendors. Other information is sourced from Deutsche Bank, subject companies, and other sources. For disclosures pertaining to recommendations or estimates made on securities other than the primary subject of this research, please see the most recently published company report or visit our global disclosure look-up page on our website at https://research.db.com/Research/Disclosures/CompanySearch. Aside from within this report, important conflict disclosures can also be found at https://research.db.com/Research/Topics/Equities?topicId=RB0002 under the "Disclosures Lookup" and "Legal" tabs. Investors are strongly encouraged to review this information before investing.

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Important Disclosures Required by Non-U.S. Regulators

Please also refer to disclosures in the Important Disclosures Required by US Regulators and the Explanatory Notes.

2. Deutsche Bank and/or its affiliate(s) makes a market in equity securities issued by this company.

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Analyst Certification

The views expressed in this report accurately reflect the personal views of the undersigned lead analyst(s) about the subject issuer and the securities of the issuer. In addition, the undersigned lead analyst(s) has not and will not receive any compensation for providing a specific recommendation or view in this report. Brian Bedell

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03/09/2017:

18. 03/17/2017:

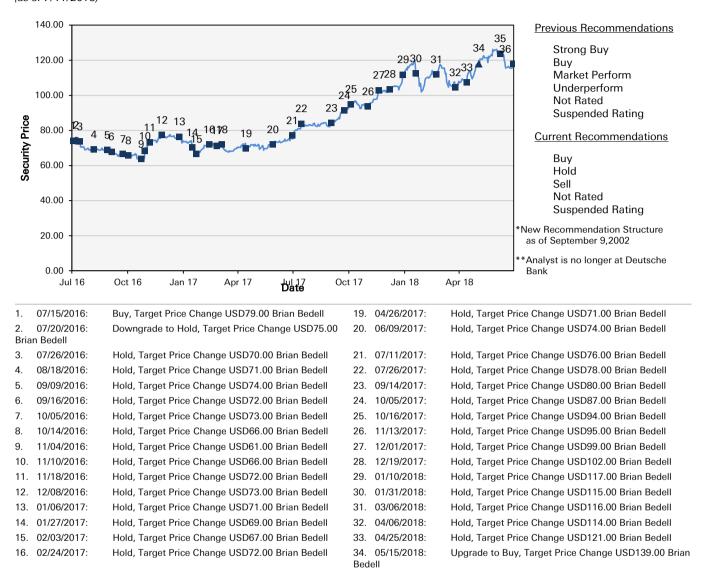
17.



Historical recommendations and target price: T. Rowe Price (TROW.OQ) (as of 7/11/2018)

Hold, Target Price Change USD73.00 Brian Bedell

Hold, Target Price Change USD74.00 Brian Bedell



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35. 06/19/2018:

36. 07/11/2018:

Buy, Target Price Change USD140.00 Brian Bedell

Buy, Target Price Change USD138.00 Brian Bedell



Equity rating key

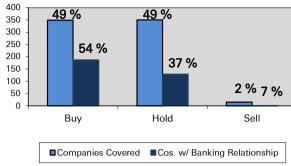
Buy: Based on a current 12- month view of total share-holder return (TSR = percentage change in share price from current price to projected target price plus pro-jected dividend yield), we recommend that investors buy the stock.

Sell: Based on a current 12-month view of total shareholder return, we recommend that investors sell the stock

Hold: We take a neutral view on the stock 12-months out and, based on this time horizon, do not recommend either a Buy or Sell.

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Equity rating dispersion and banking relationships



North American Universe



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