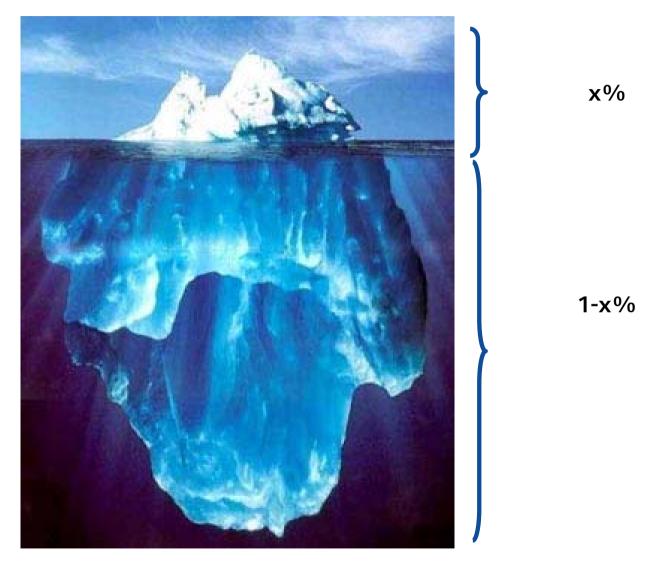




ESG reporting – Aiming to uncover the true performance

Dr Hendrik Garz FAIRE conference, Paris, 12 June 2008

ESG and the uncertainty about true company value



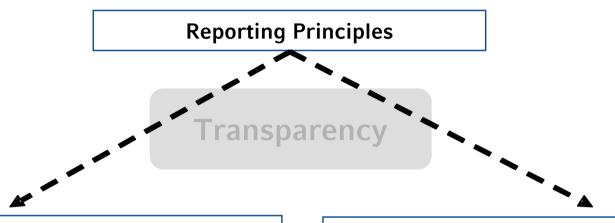


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WestLB AG



Content

(topics and indicators on which the company should report)

- **Materiality**
- Inclusivity
- Sustainability Context
- **Completeness**

Quality and Presentation

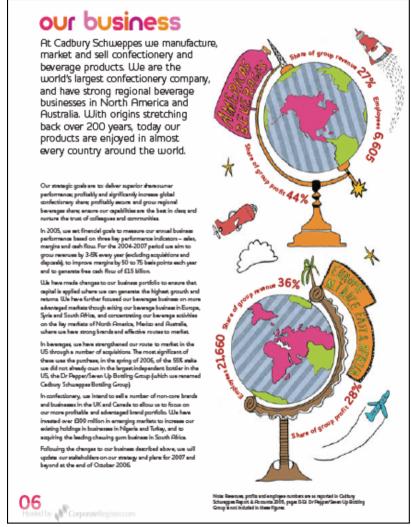
(... of reported information)

- Balance
- Clarity
- Accuracy
- **Timeliness**
- **Comparability**
- Reliability



How shall the financial community take this seriously?

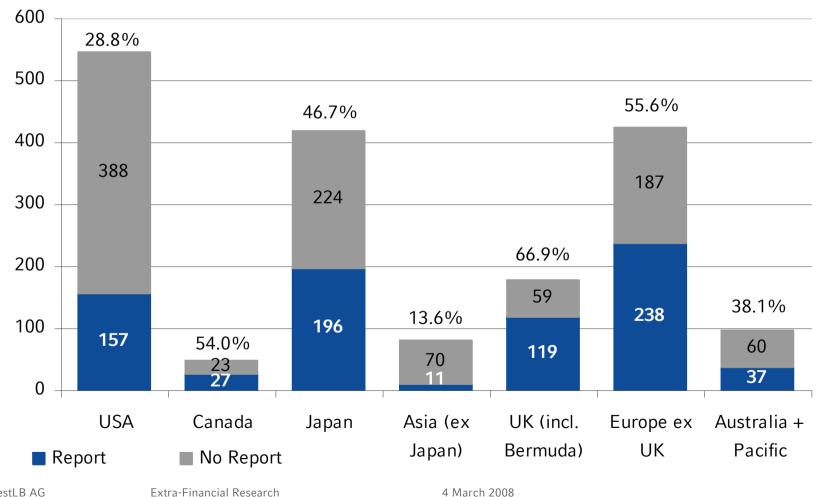




The current state of ESG reporting – country/region

Reporting propensity according to regional/national provenance of companies

(number of companies and reporting rate)



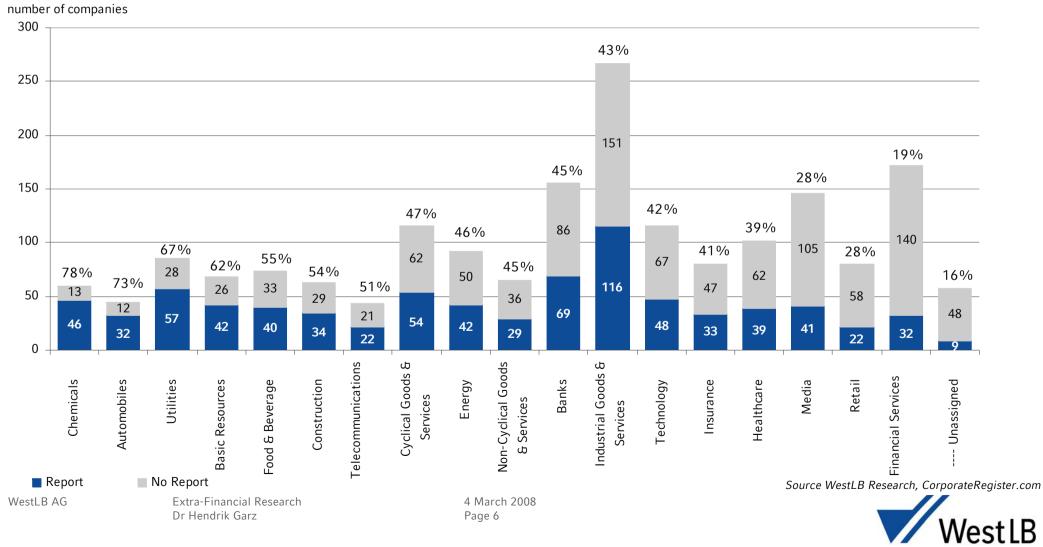
Source WestLB Research. CorporateRegister.com



The current state of ESG reporting - sector

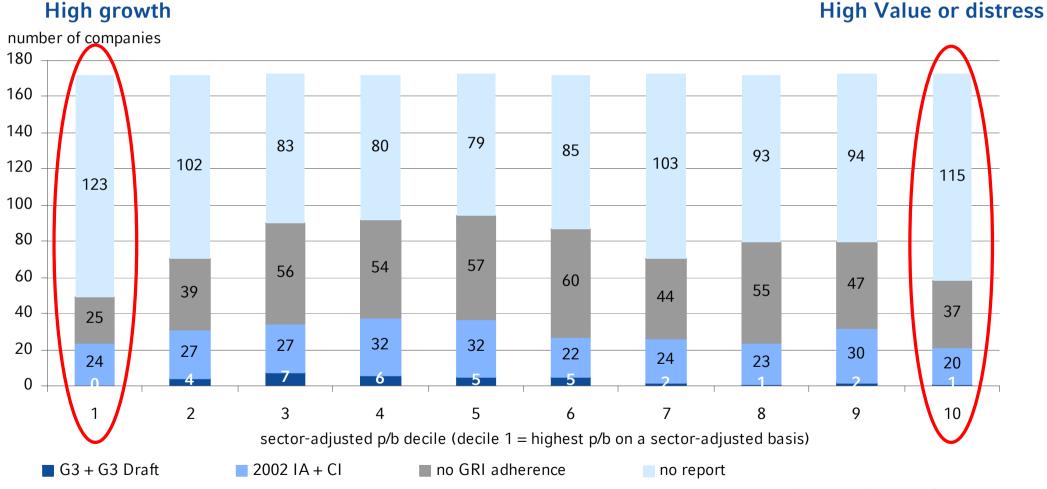
Sector breakdown by DJ STOXX sector level 2

(number of companies and reporting rate - sorted by reporting rate)



The current state of reporting – growth/value

GRI adherence according and the p/b ratio (on a sector-adjusted basis)

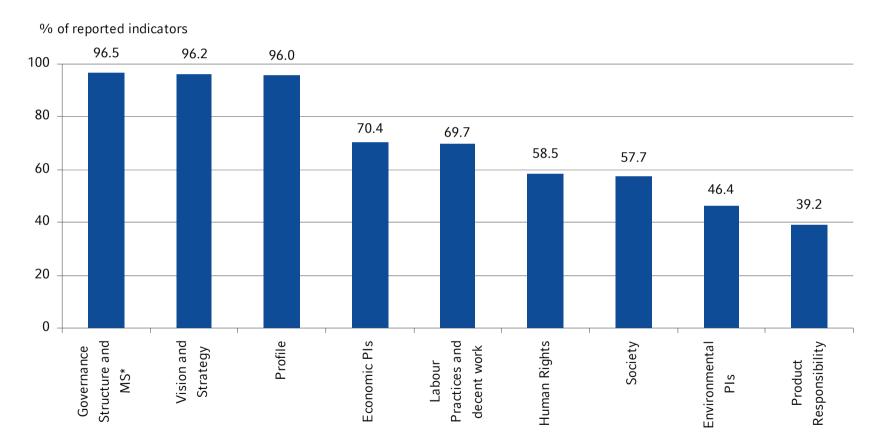




What is reported? A look at GRI reports

CI analysis: '2002 IA' reports – reported indicators per section

(percentage of reported indicators per section, according to CIs – average of all '2002 IA' reports)

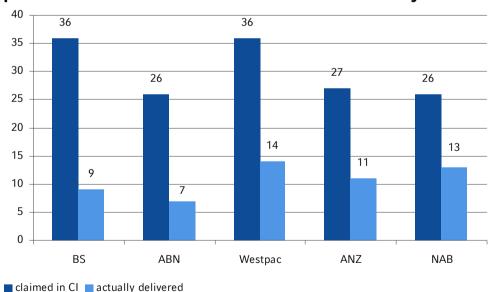




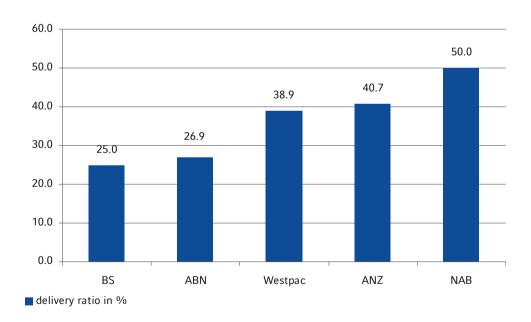
Do companies deliver what they promise? A look at G3 reports in the banking sector

- We looked for **67 indicators** altogether.
- Coverage ratios range from 10.4% for ABN Amro to 20.9% for Westpac.
- Delivery ratios range from 25% (Banco Sabadell) to 50% (NAB).

Self-declared in CI vs. actually delivered – number of performance indicators (GRI Guidelines only)

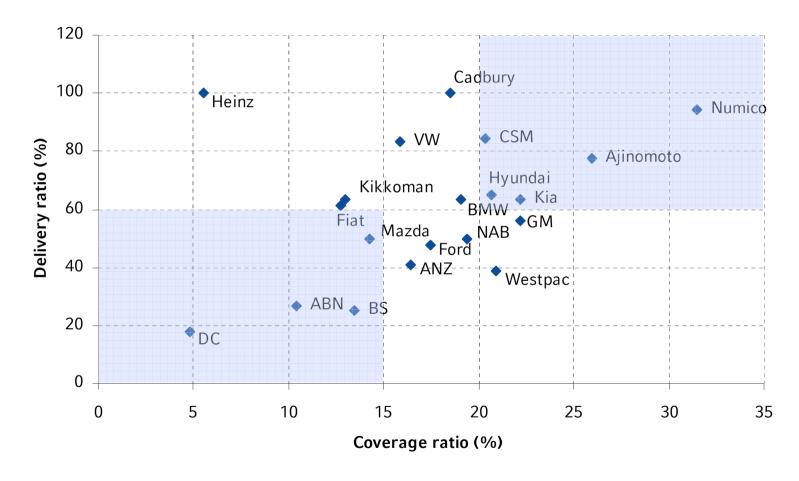


Delivery ratio (%)





Coverage vs delivery: Autos, Food, Banks



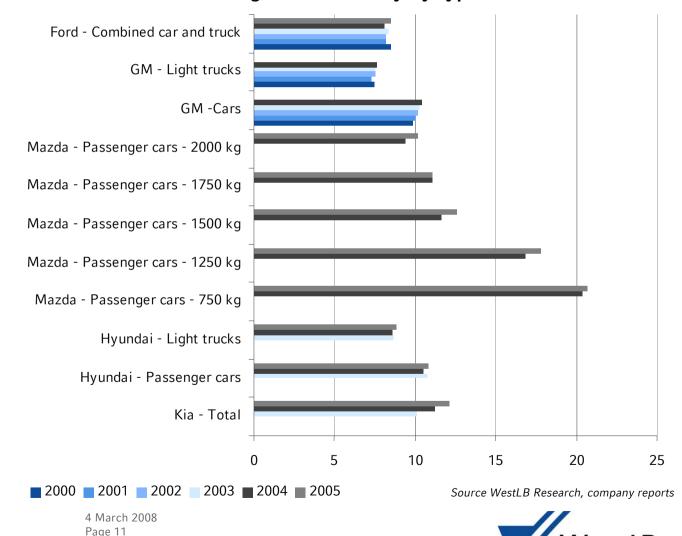
Source WestLB Research, companies' reports



Even if delivered ... lack of cross-sectional comparability of data points

- Obstacles for cross-sectional comparisons: some of them remediable (units of measurement), some of them not (differences in reporting scope, and indicator definitions).
- Example: fuel efficiency of the manufacturers' car fleets (a Core Indicator of the Automotive Sector Supplement): 5 companies remained to be benchmarked against each other – albeit most manufacturers are members of the Automotive Working Group that developed the GRI Automotive Sector Supplement.

Auto sector – A6: 'Average fuel economy by type of vehicle (km/l)'



Conclusion

- "For the financial analyst CR/Sustainability reports are useless." Not able to reject this provocative hypothesis with great confidence.
- We are fully aware that the quality of reporting on quantifiable KPIs is not the only benchmark for a report to be classified as being useful or not useful ("not everything that counts can be counted"). But it clearly is a litmus test for the potential acceptance within the mainstream investment world.
- G3 is giving an improved framework for reporting. It is now up to the companies to make the reports more useful to investors and of course to other stakeholders as well.
- Necessary exercise: Looking at ESG reporting from a pure financial market/investor perspective - DVFA/EFFAS initiative



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Coverage universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships*	Count	Percent
Buy/Add	145	54	Buy/Add	42	63
Hold	94	35	Hold	21	31
Sell/Reduce	29	11	Sell/Reduce	4	6

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Unless otherwise stated in the text of this report, target prices in this report are based on either a discounted cash flow valuation or comparison of valuation ratios with companies seen by the analyst as comparable or a combination of the two methods. The result of this fundamental valuation is adjusted to reflect the analyst's views on the likely course of investor sentiment.

Whichever valuation method is used there is a significant risk that the target price will not be achieved within the expected timeframe. Risk factors include unforeseen changes in competitive pressures or in the level of demand for the company's products. Such demand variations may result from changes in technology, in the overall level of economic activity or, in some cases, in fashion. Valuations may also be affected by changes in taxation, in exchange rates and, in certain industries, in regulations. Investment in overseas markets and instruments such as ADRs can result in increased risk from factors such as exchange controls, taxation, political and social conditions. This discussion of valuation methods and risk factors is not comprehensive – further information is available if required.

Stock ratings are based on the analyst's expectation of the stock's total return relative to the total return from the relevant market during the twelve months following assignment of the rating. This view is based on the target price, set as described above, and on the analyst's opinions on general market and economic developments.

Within that overall framework, a Buy rating means that the total return from the stock is expected to exceed the total return from the market by at least 20%; Outperform means between 10% and 20% better than the market; Neutral means movement between 0% and a positive 10% above the market mean; Underperform means between 0% and 10% underperformance relative to the market; Sell means the stock is expected to return at least 10% less than the market.

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