

Food & Beverage

2Q26 Results: North America Arrived, The Payables Left

Food & Beverage

Q: How did the results compare vs. expectations?

A: In line at the headline and softer underneath, and the distinction governs the note. Adjusted EBITDA of R\$3.2bn (+1.1% vs. Est; +3.5% q/q and +5.4% y/y) matched the Bloomberg consensus to the decimal, but it carries R\$158mn of add-backs against R\$38mn a year earlier. Stripped of them, underlying EBITDA advanced 1.5% y/y and the underlying margin receded to 7.5% — the whole of the reported margin gain is reclassification rather than operation. Gross profit fell short of our number and gross margin compressed in every division, so wherever the quarter beat, it beat below the gross line; the same holds for the earnings line, whose annual advance rests largely on other operating income turning positive. As to the market, we anticipate a muted reaction and would not discard a mildly adverse one: the print offers nothing to reprice at the headline, the shares closed near the floor of a 52-week band down which they have fallen a quarter, and the cash statement reads considerably worse than the profit statement.

Q: What were the most noteworthy areas in the results?

A: The highlights were: **(+)** Beef North America answered the test we published in July, delivering EBITDA of US\$26mn (+17.5% vs. Est; +152.4% q/q and +2.5% y/y) and a positive margin while the two US peers that reported before it remained in loss; the differential reaches roughly 2pp, precisely the figure we subscribed, and it originated in volume, with carcass weight sustaining shipments against industry slaughter down 7.3% y/y. **(+)** Sadia Halal delivered a record margin of 16.1%, against single digits a year earlier, and is the engine behind BRF's annual margin expansion. **(=)** BRF beat (+3.0% vs. Est; +4.8% q/q and +3.8% y/y), but the beat is composition rather than core, inasmuch as gross margin compressed 233bps y/y and what expanded was mix and expense discipline. **(-)** South America ceded on cattle cost, as we anticipated, (-4.2% vs. Est; -7.4% q/q and +22.1% y/y) consuming a commercially favourable quarter. **(-)** Free cash flow consumed R\$864mn, and the semester consumed R\$2.1bn against generation a year earlier. **(-)** The drain is payables, not inventory: suppliers reversed R\$1.6bn year-on-year while inventories drained materially less, and the balance of invoices under the reverse factoring programme fell R\$471mn in the semester — the company is funding a rising share of its own payables.

Q: Has the outlook ahead changed?

A: The operating outlook has not changed; our numbers have, and in a single line. We are raising Beef North America's 2027 margin to 2.0%, from the 1.5% our model carried — a level the division last delivered in 2024, and one it reached in a year when cattle availability was already tightening. The quarter supplied the first evidence that the trough is behind it, with margin advancing 40bps sequentially while industry slaughter fell 7.3% y/y; the division improved into a shrinking kill rather than because of a generous one, which is the harder way to do it and the more durable. The structural relief is still ahead of us: withdrawn capacity is permanent and Mexican cattle reach the kill floor in 1H27, although it bears qualifying that the port authorised so far accounts for roughly a seventh of the historical flow, so the relief arrives later and smaller than the announcement suggested. That takes our 2027 EBITDA to R\$13.3bn, above the consensus, and it is where the differentiation of this call now sits. What has not improved is the balance sheet: leverage rose for a second consecutive quarter while the company repurchased its own shares, and notwithstanding management's framing of the working-capital outflow as seasonal, the reverse factoring balance says otherwise. The conference call takes place tomorrow morning.

Q: Valuation and recommendation

A: We reiterate BUY and the 12-month target price of R\$23.00. It bears setting out what changed, because it is not the target: until today our estimates sat on top of the consensus and our target was the exact median of nineteen houses, which is no differentiation at all — the recommendation rested on a re-rating rather than on a view, and a re-rating is not something an analyst can underwrite. Raising 2027 North America places us above the street on the one line that decides this name, and converts the call into an estimates thesis, which is a materially better place to stand. The target derives from multiple, inasmuch as the shares trade at an 11% discount to the peer set against a two-year average of 2%; reverting to that own history implies 6.4x over our revised 2027 EBITDA, which net of twelve-month forward debt and minority interests returns the target above. What would move us the other way is cash rather than the cycle, and the distinction matters: the drain is structural, and a company funding a rising share of its own payables has less room to absorb a slower recovery. We would revisit the recommendation should third-quarter free cash flow stay negative and leverage advance beyond 3.41x.

In short, North America arrived and the payables carried the cash out with them: BUY, 12M target price of R\$23.00, now carried by 2027 estimates above the street rather than by a re-rating, with third-quarter free cash flow as the condition that would move us.

ANALYSTS

Luca Vello
+55 (11) 3206-1457
luca.vello@genial.com.vc

COMPANY

MBRF3 BZ Equity BUY

Price: R\$ 16.35 (Aug 13)
12M Target Price: R\$ 23.00
(maintained)

MARKET DATA

Market cap	R\$ 22.6bn
Free float	56.8%
ADTV (3m)	R\$ 117mn
52-wk range	14.49–27.66
Net debt (2Q26)	R\$ 45,008mn
Net debt/EBITDA	3.41x (2Q26)

MULTIPLES

EV/EBITDA 26E	5.2x
EV/EBITDA 27E	5.2x
Div. Yield 26E	0.4%
Disc. vs. peers	-11%

PERFORMANCE

Year to date (YTD)	-18.2%
12 months (LTM)	-24.8%

2Q26 REPORTED

Net revenue	R\$40.7bn
Adj. EBITDA	R\$3.2bn
Adj. EBITDA margin	7.9%
Beef NA EBITDA	US\$26mn

1. Financial scorecard — 2Q26 reported vs. Genial Est., R\$ mn

MBRF (R\$ mn; IFRS)	Reported vs. Est.			q/q change		y/y change	
2Q26 financial scorecard	2Q26	2Q26E	Δ vs. Est.	1Q26	q/q	2Q25	y/y
INCOME STATEMENT							
Net revenue	40,720	40,176	1.4%	39,453	3.2%	38,802	4.9%
(-) COGS	(35,852)	(35,135)	2.0%	(34,683)	3.4%	(33,987)	5.5%
Gross profit	4,868	5,041	(3.4%)	4,770	2.0%	4,815	1.1%
<i>Gross margin</i>	<i>12.0%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>(0.6 pp)</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>(0.1 pp)</i>	<i>12.4%</i>	<i>(0.5 pp)</i>
(+) D&A	1,652	1,734	(4.8%)	1,610	2.6%	1,866	(11.5%)
EBIT	1,393	1,401	(0.6%)	1,388	0.4%	1,107	25.8%
Adjusted EBITDA	3,203	3,169	1.1%	3,096	3.5%	3,039	5.4%
<i>Adj. EBITDA margin</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>(0.0 pp)</i>	<i>7.8%</i>	<i>0.0 pp</i>	<i>7.8%</i>	<i>0.0 pp</i>
(+/-) Financial result	(1,776)	(1,736)	2.3%	(1,390)	27.8%	(1,436)	23.7%
EBT	(382)	(335)	—	(2)	—	(329)	—
(-) Income tax	423	(2)	n/a	(27)	n/a	502	(15.8%)
(+/-) Minorities	28	(137)	n/a	141	(80.1%)	(112)	n/a
Net income (attributable)	69	(200)	n/a	111	(38.0%)	85	(19.0%)
CASH AND BALANCE SHEET							
(-) CAPEX	(1,411)	(1,400)	0.8%	(1,174)	20.2%	—	—
Free cash flow	(864)	(400)	116.0%	(1,262)	(31.5%)	—	—
Net debt	45,008	—	—	43,967	2.4%	37,606	19.7%
<i>Net debt/EBITDA</i>	<i>3.41x</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>3.37x</i>	<i>0.04x</i>	<i>2.71x</i>	<i>0.70x</i>

2. Operating scorecard by division — volume, price and margin

MBRF — by division	Reported vs. Est.			q/q change		y/y change	
2Q26 operating scorecard	2Q26	2Q26E	Δ vs. Est.	1Q26	q/q	2Q25	y/y
BRF							
Volume ('000 tons)	1,219	1,250	(2.5%)	1,205	1.2%	1,221	(0.1%)
Net revenue	15,428	15,595	(1.1%)	14,933	3.3%	15,266	1.1%
Price (R\$/kg)	12.66	12.47	1.5%	12.40	2.1%	12.51	1.2%
Gross profit	3,776	4,045	(6.6%)	3,712	1.7%	4,092	(7.7%)
Gross margin	24.5%	25.9%	(1.5 pp)	24.9%	(0.4 pp)	26.8%	(2.3 pp)
Adjusted EBITDA	2,596	2,520	3.0%	2,477	4.8%	2,500	3.8%
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	<i>16.8%</i>	<i>16.2%</i>	<i>0.7 pp</i>	<i>16.6%</i>	<i>0.2 pp</i>	<i>16.4%</i>	<i>0.4 pp</i>
BEEF SOUTH AMERICA							
Volume ('000 tons)	273	267	2.2%	271	0.6%	251	8.8%
Net revenue	6,389	6,155	3.8%	6,154	3.8%	5,055	26.4%
Price (R\$/kg)	23.40	23.04	1.6%	22.68	3.2%	20.14	16.2%
Gross profit	915	967	(5.4%)	985	(7.1%)	773	18.4%
Gross margin	14.3%	15.7%	(1.4 pp)	16.0%	(1.7 pp)	15.3%	(1.0 pp)
Adjusted EBITDA	570	595	(4.2%)	616	(7.4%)	467	22.1%
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>9.7%</i>	<i>(0.8 pp)</i>	<i>10.0%</i>	<i>(1.1 pp)</i>	<i>9.2%</i>	<i>(0.3 pp)</i>
BEEF NORTH AMERICA							
Volume ('000 tons)	477	458	4.1%	473	0.9%	468	2.0%
Domestic market ('000 tons)	421	403	4.5%	414	1.8%	411	2.4%
Export market ('000 tons)	56	55	1.3%	59	(5.1%)	56	(0.5%)
Net revenue	18,904	18,426	2.6%	18,366	2.9%	18,481	2.3%
Adjusted EBITDA	131	111	17.8%	53	146.2%	144	(8.8%)
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>0.1 pp</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>0.4 pp</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>(0.1 pp)</i>
BEEF NORTH AMERICA — IN US\$ (mn)							
Net revenue (US\$mn)	3,748	3,650	2.7%	3,491	7.4%	3,263	14.9%
Price (US\$/kg)	7.86	7.96	(1.3%)	7.38	6.4%	6.98	12.6%
COGS (US\$/kg)	(7.69)	(7.78)	(1.2%)	(7.26)	5.9%	(6.80)	13.1%
Gross profit (US\$mn)	80	83	(3.3%)	57	39.9%	84	(4.7%)
Adj. EBITDA (US\$mn)	26	22	17.5%	10	152.4%	25	2.5%
<i>EBITDA margin</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>0.1 pp</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>0.4 pp</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>(0.1 pp)</i>
CORPORATE AND ELIMINATIONS							
Adjusted EBITDA	(94)	(58)	62.4%	(49)	90.3%	(71)	32.0%

3. Reported vs. Bloomberg consensus — 2Q26, R\$ mn

MBRF (R\$ mn)	2Q26		
Reported vs. consensus	Reported	Consensus	Δ
Net revenue	40,720	39,446	3.2%
EBIT	1,393	1,502	(7.3%)
Adjusted EBITDA	3,203	3,203	0.0%
EBITDA margin	7.9%	8.1%	(0.3 pp)
Net income (attributable)	69	126	(45.2%)

4. Annual projections — Genial Est. vs. Bloomberg consensus, R\$ mn

MBRF (R\$ mn)	Genial Est.				
Annual projections	2025A	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E
Net revenue	163,778	163,900	170,200	176,200	181,200
Adjusted EBITDA	13,151	12,950	13,250	14,850	16,950
EBITDA margin	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%	8.4%	9.3%
Net income	358	295	650	1,980	2,450
BLOOMBERG CONSENSUS					
Net revenue	163,778	164,585	170,890	176,786	181,856
Adjusted EBITDA	13,151	13,002	12,864	14,786	17,091
Net income	358	380	(27)	1,714	1,646

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