## **HEDGEYE**

# **Hedgeye Comms**

**Sector Breakout Session** 

May 2024









### Communications

Internet, Media and Telecom

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## **Communications Research Process**



## Internet, Media and Telecom

### **Research Process**

### 1. Idea Generation

- o Thematic, macro and policy driven (...will take rifle shots too)
- Focus on second derivative inflections in trends
- o Relative and absolute performance / Battleground stocks
- o Counter consensus screening models (short interest, ANR, etc.)
- Primary market research (professional interviews and surveys)

### 2. Fundamentals

- o Build out three-statement financial models
- Model top-line growth, market share and end-market
- Operating leverage, ROIC/Cost of Capital and free cash flow
- o Focus on balance sheet, capital structure and management
- Consider all relevant valuation metrics (DCF, multiple, factor, etc.)
- Assess catalyst calendar, understand event path and risk/reward

### 3. Data Driven

- Narrative supported by data
- Identify correlations, update and chart high frequency key drivers
- Leverage alternative, proprietary and third-party data sces
- o Incorporate machine learning and data science to gain insights

# **Research Process Goals** Defendable. Repeatable Accountable Idea Generation / **Alpha** Objective / Leverageable Intellectually Honest Data Driven



Internet, Media and Telecom

## Research

Supported by team of engineers and data scientists... and a cartoonist!

### **Third Party Data**

**Mobile App Data** – Mobile app intelligence provider. Download and usage metrics for iOS and Android platforms world-wide.

Variety Insights – Feature development and production pipeline across TV, film and digital. Talent and deal activity.

**Consumer Panel** – Access to proprietary panel with demographic information for surveys.

**FCC Database** – Asset level detail for cable, telecom providers and media networks.

### **Fundamental**

**Company Models** - Monitor key drivers and metrics.

**Industry Models** – Aggregate company and industry data to track and forecast adoption trends.

Valuation/Sentiment – Track absolute and relative valuation trends. Sentiment monitored by performance, short interest and sell-side rating

**Anecdotes** – Interviews with industry professionals and published insights.

### Policy

TMT Policy - Paul Glenchur serves as Senior Policy Analyst in Hedgeye's Potomac Research Group. Paul is ranked among leading telecommunications policy specialists, combining his legal background with industry experience.

## **Proprietary Data**

**Content Database** – 400k+ movie titles and 70k+ TV shows world-wide with production company and other key metrics.

**Title Tracker** – Track content availability and content catalogue of major SVOD/AVOD services in the U.S. and select international markets.

**Popularity Ranking** – Track content ratings and popularity trends on weekly basis.

**BBB Complaint/Review –** Time series frequency of complaints by company and star review.

**Employee Review -** Time series Net Promoter Score (NPS) of company

**Job Posting Tracker –** Select companies.

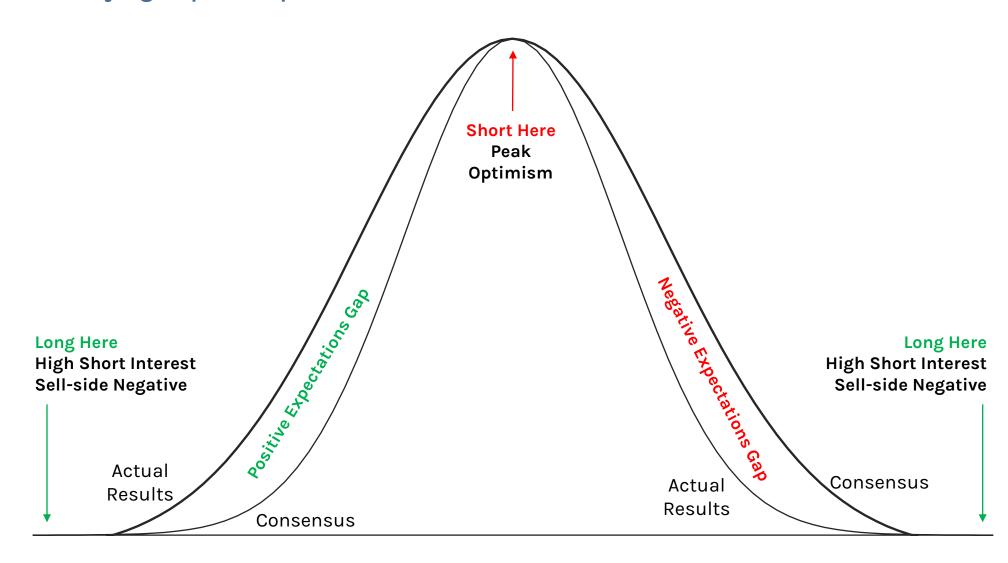
**Roku Channel Tracker** - Tracks the number of channels and popularity.

**Live Event Database –** Tracks the supply of events on Ticketmaster.com (incl. status of live event... canceled, postponed, rescheduled)

## **Fundamental Idea Generation**



Identifying Gaps in Expectations and Inflections in Growth



#### **Hunting for Longs:**

(1-3 Year Duration)

- Organic growth / adoption
- Activist / turnaround
- Fallen angel growth stocks
- High short-interest / misunderstood long thesis
- Compounders

### **Hunting for Shorts:**

(<1 Year Duration)

- Frauds and fads
- Balance sheet shorts
- Angels before the fall (hardest to call timing on, but often most rewarding if right)
- Buggy whips
- Melting ice cubes

### **Process Shortcomings:**

- Early is a less bad form of wrong
- Calling quarters is hard (not impossible)
- Correlations break down

## **Communications Position Monitor**



## Internet, Media and Cable/Telecom

Active - LONG	Longs	Sentiment Score*	Ma	arket Cap (bill)	P	rice	Trend	Tail	Active SHORT	- Shorts	Sentiment Score*	arket p (bill)	Р	rice	Trend	Tail
Active Lo	ongs								Active	Shorts						
GOOGL	Alphabet Inc. Class A	100	\$	2,061.5	\$	164.4	✓	✓	FUBO	fuboTV Inc.	33	\$ 0.5	\$	1.4	×	×
FYBR	Frontier Communications Parent, Inc.	73	\$	5.9	\$	25.1		$\checkmark$	FOXA	Fox Corporation Class A	57	\$ 15.0	\$	31.8		×
TTD	Trade Desk, Inc. Class A	72	\$	43.1	\$	88.9	✓	$\checkmark$	AMC	AMC Entertainment Holdings, Inc. Class A	17	\$ 0.9	\$	3.2		×
PINS	Pinterest, Inc. Class A	55	\$	27.5	\$	40.3	✓	$\checkmark$	VZ	Verizon Communications Inc.	93	\$ 163.9	\$	38.9		×
TKO	TKO Group Holdings, Inc. Class A	83	\$	7.7	\$	97.7	✓	$\checkmark$	META	Meta Platforms Inc Class A	93	\$ 1,120.3	\$	449.1		×
ROKU	Roku, Inc. Class A	31	\$	8.6	\$	59.6		$\checkmark$	CHTR	Charter Communications, Inc. Class A	11	\$ 37.8	\$	268.7		
NYT	New York Times Company Class A	33	\$	7.3	\$	44.7	✓									
TMUS	T-Mobile US, Inc.	87	\$	193.2	\$	163.9		$\checkmark$								
Т	AT&T Inc.	80	\$	120.3	\$	16.8		✓								
мтсн	Match Group, Inc.	45	\$	8.3	\$	31.9	✓	$\checkmark$								
Long Bia	s (Bench) / Passive								Short E	Bias (Bench) / Passive						
NFLX	Netflix, Inc.	79	\$	243.6	\$	571.8			RDDT	Reddit, Inc. Class A	N/A	\$ 6.6	\$	46.9		
SPHR	Sphere Entertainment Co. Class A	39	\$	1.4	\$	41.5			LUMN	Lumen Technologies, Inc.	20	\$ 1.3	\$	1.3		
SNAP	Snap, Inc. Class A	52	\$	26.9	\$	16.2			ATUS	Altice USA, Inc. Class A	45	\$ 0.9	\$	2.0		
WBD	Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc. Series A	61	\$	19.5	\$	8.1			PARA	Paramount Global Class B	9	\$ 9.2	\$	14.2		
TTWO	Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc.	96	\$	24.4	\$	144.6			OMC	Omnicom Group Inc	45	\$ 18.1	\$	92.9		
CMCSA	Comcast Corporation Class A	78	\$	152.4	\$	38.5			IPG	Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc.	33	\$ 11.5	\$	30.8		
LAMR	Lamar Advertising Company Class A	83	\$	12.1	\$	114.7			CRTO	Criteo SA Sponsored ADR	95	\$ 2.0	\$	37.2		
LYV	Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.	65	\$	20.4	\$	94.6										

Research Bullpen								
SIRI	Sirius XM Holdings, Inc.	IHRT	iHeartMedia, Inc. Class A	OUT	OUTFRONT Media Inc.			
SPOT	Spotify Technology SA	MGNI	Magnite, Inc.	FWONK	Liberty Media Corp. Series C Liberty Formula One			
DIS	Walt Disney Company	PUBM	PubMatic, Inc. Class A	BMBL	Bumble, Inc. Class A			
CABO	Cable One, Inc.	RBLX	Roblox Corp. Class A					
wow	WideOpenWest, Inc.	DV	DoubleVerify Holdings, Inc.					

Price and market cap data as of 5/3/2024

Sentiment score as of 4/28/2024

\*Hedgeye Communications Sentiment Score is a stock's relative percentile rank within its own sub-sector, calculated by factoring the stock's short interest, sell-side ranking, relative forward earnings multiple to the S&P 500 over a rolling 12-mo basis and relative performance to S&P 500 over a 90-day period. A Sentiment Score of 1 represents high short interest, negative sell side rating, relative underperformance and multiple compression. A Sentiment Score of 100 represents low short interest, positive sell side rating, relative outperformance and multiple expansion.

Disclaimer: Hedgeye's "bench" represents Hedgeye's outlook on companies currently under Hedgeye's review, or for which timing is not right for greater coverage. Hedgeye may or may not provide further commentary on any or all companies represented on the bench and representation of a company on the bench does not forecast whether Hedgeye will or will not issue any additional material on that company

# Meta (META) Key Thesis Points



## 10 reasons why we are making META an active short

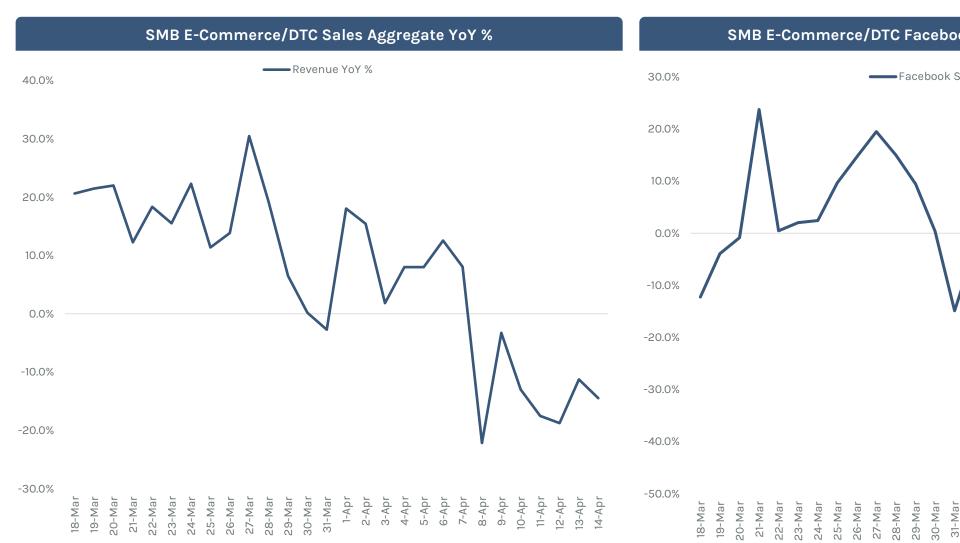
- 1) Looming ROC slowdown 2H24 (it's 4/21)
- 2) Regulatory + Policy Headwinds
  - Digital Markets Act (EU) Implemented 3/6/24
  - Digital Services Act (EU) Implemented 2/17/24
  - The American Privacy Rights Act (Proposed)
  - UK Policy Pending Learnings from DMA/DSA
- 3) Platform Change Headwinds
  - Apple Privacy Manifests Enforcement 5/1/24
  - Google 3P Cookie Deprecation 4Q24
  - Resetting Android Ad IDs
- 4) Meta Data Slowing Down
  - Direct response dataset (2H March)
  - Meta U.S. CPMs
  - 3P SMB/DTC agency spend
  - Meta Apps time spent slowing

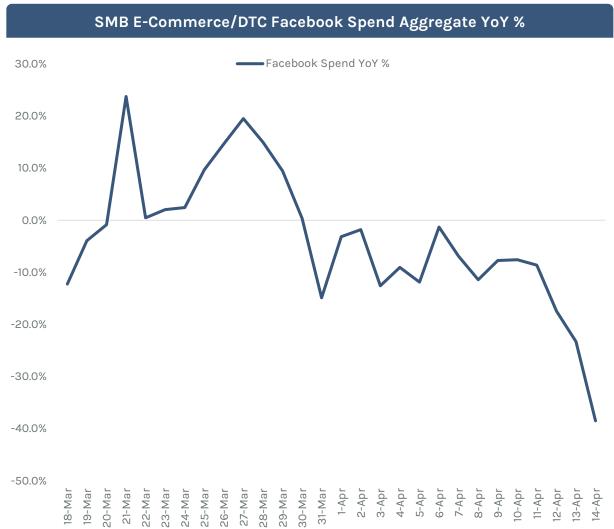
- 5) Temu/Shein Share of Voice Trends Moderating
- 6) No Shortage of Negative Anecdotes
  - Primarily long tail DTC and single-brand segment
  - Efficiency declines leading to budget cuts
  - Inconsistent/volatile campaign performance
- 7) Hiring + Opex Trends Accelerate 2H24
  - Seasonally strong period for hiring Q2/Q3
- 8) Capex Risk to the Upside
  - Al Investments + Llama 3 Chat Bot rollout
- 9) Consumption Shift Back to Services vs Goods
- 10) Investor Expectations are High

# SMB/DTC Channel Showing Signs of Slowing



Long-tail of advertisers impacted the most by platform and policy shifts...





# **Direct Response Trends Quarterly**



Total advertising spend growth accelerating Q1; Notable divergence b/w Meta and Google

Υ	O	Υ	%

### Facebook/Instagram %

CY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020	12.7%	12.8%	36.8%	47.4%
2021	22.9%	34.0%	7.6%	-8.9%
2022	-9.9%	-12.4%	-0.2%	13.1%
2023	19.1%	9.8%	28.1%	26.2%
2024	24.8%	15.2%		

### Google %

CY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020	23.6%	23.5%	21.1%	22.8%
2021	33.4%	121.5%	52.0%	11.1%
2022	21.9%	-9.4%	11.3%	6.0%
2023	0.1%	4.0%	21.3%	26.7%
2024	48.4%	80.3%		

### **Advertising Spend %**

CY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020	17.0%	16.5%	30.2%	33.9%
2021	27.2%	66.1%	25.0%	1.2%
2022	3.8%	-10.9%	5.3%	9.2%
2023	9.5%	6.9%	24.7%	26.4%
2024	35.7%	46.8%		

#### Q/Q %

### Facebook/Instagram %

CY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020	-13.0%	1.4%	17.1%	42.7%
2021	-27.4%	10.5%	-5.9%	20.8%
2022	-28.3%	7.4%	7.2%	36.9%
2023	-24.4%	-1.0%	25.1%	34.9%
2024	-25.3%	-8.5%		

### Google %

CY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020	-50.1%	-15.6%	29.3%	125.3%
2021	-45.8%	40.2%	-11.3%	64.6%
2022	-40.5%	4.2%	9.0%	56.8%
2023	-43.8%	8.3%	27.1%	63.7%
2024	-34.2%	31.6%		

### Advertising Spend %

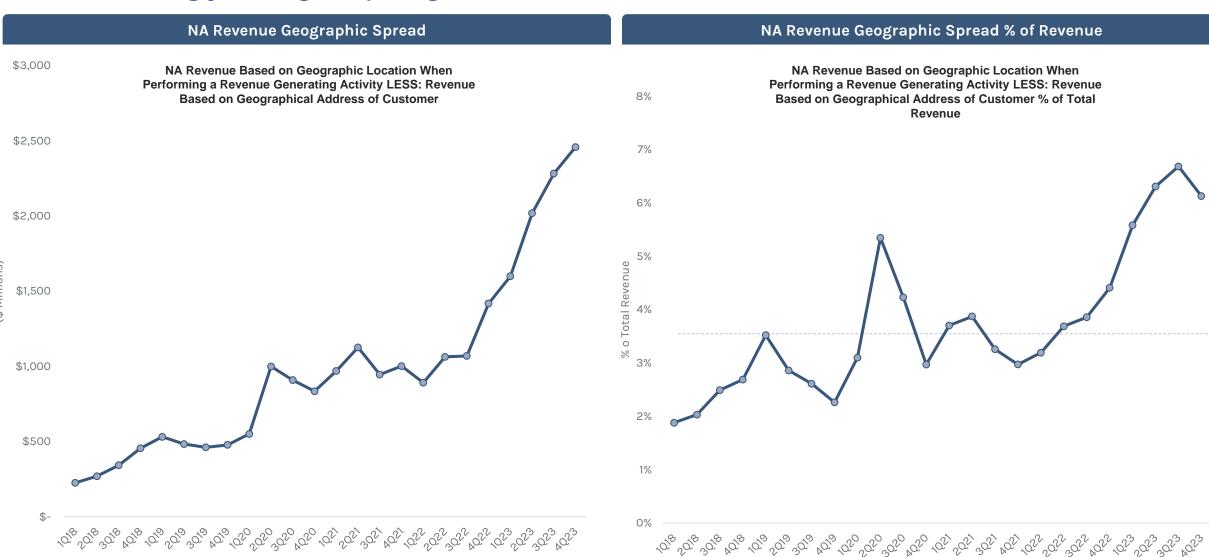
CY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2020	-33.3%	-5.6%	21.6%	75.0%
2021	-36.7%	23.3%	-8.5%	41.6%
2022	-35.0%	5.8%	8.1%	46.9%
2023	-34.8%	3.3%	26.1%	49.0%
2024	-30.1%	11.8%		

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# Teasing Out The Temu Impact



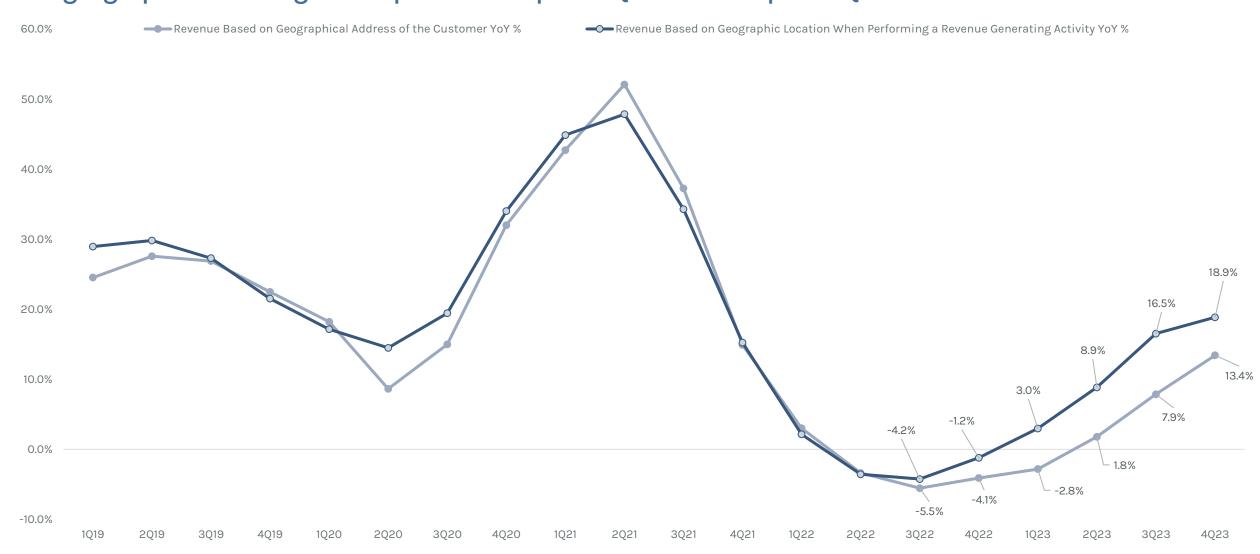
3Q23 increasingly looking like peak growth contribution from Temu/Shein



# Teasing Out The Temu Impact



NA geographic revenue growth spread +870bps to 3Q23 vs +550bps in 4Q23



## Shein + Temu Share of Voice U.S.



## Signs of moderating activity with difficult comparisons coming up 3Q23

