



ISSUER RATING
LongTerm

OUTLOOK
Stable

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Rating Action and Rationale

- EthiFinance Ratings affirms Symrise AG's long-term rating at BBB, maintaining its stable outlook.
- Symrise is a German-based company supplying fragrances, flavors, cosmetic and functional ingredients.
- Our rating affirmation is based on the stability of Symrise's financial profile since our last rating review. The company is well on track with respect to its deleveraging trajectory, with net leverage reduced to 2.3x in FY24 (from 3.2x in FY23) on the back of robust cash flow generation. We expect this trend to continue, supportive by cumulative free cash flow of €0.8 – 1bn and sustained EBITDA growth over 2025–27, leading to a further improvement of net leverage to 2.0x in FY25e and 1.3x by FY27e assuming no significant M&A, buyback or exceptional dividend. Symrise posted strong organic revenue growth of 8.7% in FY24, driven primarily by the Scent & Care division, which contributed nearly two-thirds of revenue growth thanks to robust demand in fine fragrances, cosmetic ingredients, and a recovery in aroma molecules. Adjusted EBITDA margin improved from 17.8% in FY23 to 20.5% in FY24, supported in part by a cost-efficiency program that generated €50m in OpEx savings for the year. The group maintains a solid position in the global flavors and fragrances sector, with a 12% market share, ranking third behind Givaudan (18%) and IFF (22%). This position is reinforced by Symrise's diversified end-markets and balanced business mix across products and clients.
- However, our rating remains constrained by the negative ESG impact associated with the chemicals industry, as well as the company's M&A strategy, which could pressure credit metrics should it rely on excessive debt financing. In addition, a potential slowdown in volumes, whether from customer destocking or a broader weakening of end-markets, represents a further constraint on the rating
- In line with our methodology, the materials & chemicals industry has high ESG risks (heatmap score of between 4 and 5) given its impact on the environment, which constrains our industry assessment. Regarding environmental factors, the industry has a high impact on climate and pollution, with high levels of GHG emissions and pollution generation risks (air, water, hazardous waste).
- Our assessment of the company's ESG policy is neutral (company ESG score of between 1.5 and 3.5), which doesn't impact our financial assessment. Consequently, our ESG industry assessment negatively impacts Symrise's anchor rating.

Issuer Description

Symrise is a German supplier of fragrances, flavourings, cosmetics base materials and substances, as well as functional ingredients. It operates through a network of more than 100 production facilities, strategically distributed across more than 40 countries, spanning the globe. It has a total workforce exceeding 12,700 employees, manufacturing about 35,000 products from around 10,000 - mostly natural - raw materials such as vanilla, citrus, flowers and plants. It serves over 6,000 customers spread across more than 150 countries.

The group's customer base comprises large multinational companies and renowned regional and local manufacturers, specializing in foods, beverages, pet food, perfumes, cosmetics, personal care products, cleaning products, and laundry detergents. It reported annual revenues of €5.0bn for FY24, with adjusted EBITDA of c. €1.02bn, and a net leverage ratio of 2.3x. Symrise is publicly traded on the XETRA stock exchange, and had a market capitalization of € 11.1 bn as of 15 September 2025.

Liquidity

We assess the liquidity profile of Symrise AG as "Good" reflecting its strong refinancing profile and reasonable level of liquidity.

Main Financial Figures & Forecasts

Main financial figures. millions of EUR						
	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e	24vs23%
Turnover	4,730	4,999	5,023	5,174	5,433	5.7%
Adj EBITDA ⁽¹⁾	844	1,023	1,060	1,123	1,206	21.2%
Adj EBITDA Margin ⁽¹⁾	17.8%	20.5%	21.1%	21.7%	22.2%	2.6pp
EBIT	559	718	752	805	872	28.4%
EBIT Margin	11.8%	14.4%	15.0%	15.6%	16.1%	2.5pp
Total Assets	7,846	8,325	8,313	8,832	8,779	6.1%
Equity	3,686	3,981	4,328	4,702	5,116	8.0%
Total Financial Debt ⁽²⁾	3,059	3,052	2,702	2,828	2,328	-0.2%
Net Financial Debt ⁽²⁾	2,666	2,343	2,102	1,802	1,549	-12.1%
Equity / TFD ⁽²⁾	120.5%	130.4%	160.1%	166.2%	219.7%	9.9pp
NFD / Adj EBITDA ⁽¹⁾	3.2x	2.3x	2.0x	1.6x	1.3x	-0.9x
Funds From Operations	663	835	827	879	948	25.9%
FFO / NFD ⁽²⁾	24.9%	35.7%	39.3%	48.8%	61.2%	10.8pp
Adj EBITDA / Interest ⁽¹⁾	7.7x	11.7x	14.9x	16.6x	19.4x	3.9x
⁽¹⁾ Adjusted EBITDA excludes other income from governments grants						
⁽²⁾ Total debt includes pension provisions and leases as per the company adjustments						

Credit Rating

Credit Rating	
Business Risk Profile	BBB-
Industry risk assessment	BB-
Industry's ESG	Negative
Competitive Positioning	BBB
Governance	BBB
Financial Risk Profile	BBB+
Cash flow and leverage	BBB+
Capitalisation	A-
Company's ESG	Neutral
Anchor Rating	BBB
Modifiers	-
Rating	BBB

MODIFIERS

• Controversies

Over the course of our review, we have detected one controversy related to the opening of an investigation into a potential violation of cartel law, in the production of fragrances and fragrance ingredients. This is an ongoing investigation, which is likely to be spread out over several years, potentially leading to fines of up to 15-20% of the affected revenues in Europe. This is subject to an absolute max of 10% of global turnover. This controversy has not impacted our rating so far, but EthiFinance Ratings will continue to monitor the evolution of the investigation. Should new elements arise, or should regulators impose a fine, we would either adjust the controversies score accordingly (if further controversies are unearthed by the investigation, without a precise financial impact projection), or estimate the amount of the fine and its impact on credit metrics, if such can be done.

• Country risk

Symrise AG is rather well diversified geographically and therefore does not have significant country risk exposure.

Rating Sensitivity

- List of ratings:
 - LT Rating: BBB

Factors that may (individually or collectively) impact the rating:

- **Positive factors (↑)**

A rating upgrade could be entailed by improved credit metrics on the back of a continued gradual deleveraging. For instance, an adjusted net leverage ratio equal to or below 1.7x on a sustained basis, coupled with either an interest coverage ratio exceeding 18.0x, or a company ESG score below 1.0.

- **Negative factors (↓)**

A rating downgrade could happen should our credit metrics deteriorate over our forecast horizon. For instance, an adjusted net leverage ratio equal to, or above 3.0x, and an interest coverage ratio lower than 10.0x over a sustained period of time could entail a downgrade. In addition, should the ESG score go above 1.5, or the ongoing investigation develops in a significantly adverse way, leading to a revision of our controversy score to 4/5, it could also lead to a potential downgrade.

Sources of information

The credit rating issued in this report is unsolicited. The credit rating is based exclusively on public information, being the main sources the following:

1. Annual Audit Report.
2. Corporate Governance Report.
3. Corporate Website.
4. Information published in the Official Bulletins.

The information was thoroughly reviewed to ensure that it is valid and consistent, and is considered satisfactory. Nevertheless, EthiFinance Ratings assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information and the conclusions drawn from it.

Level of the rated entity participation in the rating process

Unsolicited Credit Rating	
With Rated Entity or Related Third Party Participation	NO
With Access to Internal Documents	NO
With Access to Management	NO

Additional information

- The rating was carried out in accordance with Regulation (EC) N°1060/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 September 2009, on credit rating agencies. Principal methodology used in this research are :
 - Corporate Rating Methodology - General : <https://www.ethifinance.com/download/corporate-rating-methodology-general/?wpdmdl=35203>
- The rating scale used in this report is available at <https://www.ethifinance.com/en/ratings/ratingScale>.
- EthiFinance Ratings publishes data on the historical default rates of the rating categories, which are located in the central statistics repository CEREP, of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA).
- In accordance with Article 6 (2), in conjunction with Annex I, section B (4) of the Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009, it is reported that during the last 12 months EthiFinance Ratings has not provided ancillary services to the rated entity or its related third parties.
- The issued credit rating has been notified to the rated entity, and has not been modified since.

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