



Singapore

ADD (no change)

Buy 5 Hold 7 Sell 4 Consensus ratings*: Current price: S\$9.40 Target price: S\$10.40 Previoustarget: S\$10.40 Up/downside: 10.6% CGS-CIMB / Consensus: 3.9% SGXL.SI Bloomberg: SGX SP Market cap: US\$7,470m S\$10,046m Average daily turnover: US\$17.58m S\$23.87m Current shares o/s: 1,071m Free float: 71.7% *Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

No change.



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Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	8.0	-2	-4.6
Relative (%)	-3.9	-5.5	-19.3

Major shareholders	% held
SEL Holdings	23.4
Tokyo Stock Exchange	5.0
Blackrock	3.8

Singapore Exchange

Steadying the ship

- 1HFY6/22 core net profit of S\$222m was in line with our/consensus estimates. Key drag was subdued treasury income and weaker cash equities.
- SGX's A50 volumes have sustained through the introduction of HKEX's competing product – a key positive. SB and BidFX contributions are growing.
- Reiterate Add. Sustained market volatility should support hedging activity and stronger derivatives volumes. Fed hikes are key to treasury income recovery.

1HFY6/22 FICC and derivatives gains offset by low treasury income

SGX reported 1HFY6/22 core net profit of S\$222m (adjusted for one-off remeasurement gain and writeback consideration for BidFX, +7% hoh, -3% yoy). This was in line with our/consensus forecasts and formed 49% of FY22F estimates. 1HFY6/22 revenue was flattish yoy as stronger performances from the fixed income, currencies and commodities (FICC) and equities derivatives segments were completely offset by weaker treasury income (due to the low interest rate environment) and softer cash equities trading volumes (7% yoy decline in total traded value to S\$150bn). EBITDA margin slid 3%pt yoy to 59% in 1HFY6/22 on the back of higher opex (largely staff-related) and as Scientific Beta (SB) and BidFX gain scale (lower margins vs. SGX group). Adjusting for SB, BidFX and treasury income, SGX's underlying EBITDA margin would instead be 1%pt lower yoy. SGX declared interim DPS of 8 Scts in 2QFY6/22, bringing 1HFY6/22 DPS to 16 Scts. Implementation of its scrip dividend scheme is put on hold.

FICC upside to come from scaling up of SB, BIdFX and MaxxTrader

The strength in FICC came on the back of stronger commodities and currency volumes (FX ADV +46% yoy to US\$57bn), and higher contributions from BidFX. Collectively, revenue from BidFX and SB rose c.20% yoy to S\$40m in 1HFY6/22. FICC now accounts for a larger c.22% of revenues in 1HFY6/22 (FY6/21: c.20%). The acquisition of MaxxTrader was completed in Jan 22; at full speed, this could raise FX ADV by c.20-25%.

SGX's A50 volumes and open interest sustained

Equity derivatives gained from a higher average fee per contract of S\$1.50 in 1HFY6/22 (1HFY6/21: S\$1.27) due to a larger proportion of full-fee paying customers in China and a normalisation of its Taiw an index futures post-MSCI departure. SGX's average China A50 index futures volumes rose 16% yoy in 2QFY6/22 and open interest has sustained since the introduction of HKEX's competing product in Oct 21. We expect SGX's competitive advantage of deep liquidity to support A50 volumes (and a larger addressable market) going forward, but caution for a dip in market share as HKEX's product gains traction.

Reiterate Add with TP of S\$10.40

We expect earnings upside to come from SB, BidFX and MaxxTrader as they gain scale. Market volatility should also bode well for SGX's derivatives segment. Incoming Fed rate hikes should also spur portfolio rotation volumes and stronger treasury income, albeit with a time lag. Our TP of S\$10.40 is pegged to 25x CY22F P/E, c.1 s.d. above 10-year mean.

Financial Summary	Jun-20A	Jun-21A	Jun-22F	Jun-23F	Jun-24F
Revenue (S\$m)	1,053	1,056	1,076	1,107	1,141
Operating EBITDA (S\$m)	655.7	625.2	591.6	601.3	613.0
Net Profit (S\$m)	471.8	445.4	448.5	458.2	468.8
Core EPS (S\$)	0.45	0.42	0.41	0.42	0.43
Core EPS Growth	21.9%	(6.2%)	(1.1%)	2.2%	2.3%
FD Core P/E (x)	21.10	22.50	22.58	22.26	21.76
DPS (S\$)	0.31	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.33
Dividend Yield	3.24%	3.40%	3.40%	3.46%	3.46%
EV/EBITDA (x)	14.32	15.07	16.06	15.68	15.25
P/FCFE (x)	16.52	19.67	23.12	22.40	21.83
Net Gearing	(48.3%)	(42.6%)	(44.1%)	(45.8%)	(47.7%)
P/BV (x)	8.07	7.37	6.86	6.41	5.97
ROE	40.8%	34.0%	31.2%	29.8%	28.4%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			0%	0%	0%
CGS-CIMB/Consensus EPS (x)			1.00	0.94	0.91

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

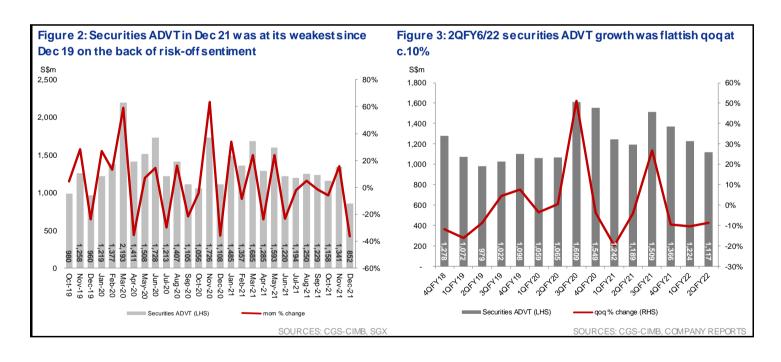
Analyst(s)



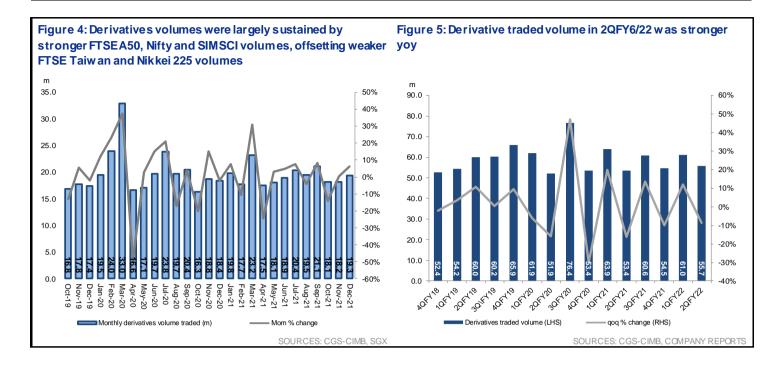
Andrea CHOONG T (65) 6210 8672 E andrea.choong@cgs-cimb.com



Figure 1: Results	table									
Results forecasts FYE Jun (S\$m)	1H22	2H21	yoy % chg	1H21	hoh % chg	FY22 Cum	FY21 Cum	yoy % chg	Prev. FY22F	Comments
										In line. Stronger FICC and equity
Revenue	521.6	535.2	(2.5)	520.8	0.2	1,075.8	1,056.0	1.9	1,103.7	derivatives revenue was offset by weaker treasury income and cash equity.
Operating costs	(215.6)	(231.4)	(6.8)	(199.3)	8.2	(484.2)	(430.7)	12.4	(456.1)	Above.
EBITDA	306.0	303.7	0.8	321.5	(4.8)	591.6	625.2	(5.4)	647.6	EBITDA margin was 3%pt lower yoy at 59%
EBITDA margin (%)	58.7	56.8	-	61.7	-	55.0	59.2	(7.1)	58.7	
Depn & amort.	(46.5)	(45.5)	2.1	(49.0)	(5.1)	(56.5)	(94.5)	(40.2)	(99.2)	
EBIT	259.5	258.2	0.5	272.6	(4.8)	535.1	530.7	0.8	548.3	
Interest & invt inc	5.3	(4.9)	209.2	17.8	(70.2)	12.0	12.1	(0.9)	12.9	Above.
Associates' contrib	(6.0)	(3.7)	61.4	(0.6)	950.3	(3.0)	(4.3)	-	(1.5)	
Exceptionals	-	(2.1)	-	-	-	-	(2.1)	-	-	
Pretax profit	263.2	248.9	5.7	287.6	(8.5)	544.1	536.5	1.4	559.8	In line.
Tax	(44.1)	(43.0)	2.6	(47.7)	(7.4)	(94.1)	(90.7)	3.8	(96.8)	
Tax rate (%)	16.8	17.3	-	16.6	-	17.3	16.9	2.3	17.3	
Minority interests	(0.3)	(0.2)	-	(0.2)	-	(1.5)	(0.4)	-	(1.5)	
Net profit	218.7	205.6	6.4	239.8	(8.8)	448.5	445.4	0.7	461.4	In line.
Core net profit	218.7	207.7	5.3	239.8	(8.8)	448.5	447.5	0.2	461.4	1HFY6/22 adjusted net profit of S\$222m accounted for c.50%of our/consensus full- year forecasts
Core EPS (cts)	20.4	19.1	6.8	22.4	(8.8)	41.3	41.8	(1.2)	23.7	SOURCES: CGS-CIMB, COMPANY REPORT:







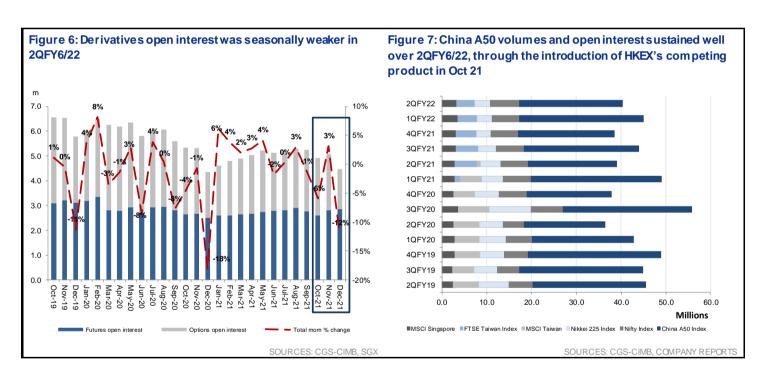


Figure 8: Peers Cor	nparison															
	Bloomberg		Price	Target Price	Market Cap	Core P		3-year EPS	P/BV		Recurring		EV/EBIT		Dividend '	
Company	Ticker	Recom.	(ici curr)	(ici curr)	(US\$ m)	CY2021	CY2022	CAGR (%)	CY2021	CY2022	CY2021	CY2022	CY2021	CY2022	CY2021	CY202
Singapore Exchange	SGX SP	Add	9.40	10.40	7,470	22.6	22.5	0.0%	7.1	6.6	32.7%	30.6%	15.5	15.8	3.4%	3.4%
Bursa Malaysia Bhd	BURSA MK	Hold	6.39	6.59	1,237	14.5	24.0	-12.5%	6.3	6.2	41.6%	26.1%	2.4	4.2	6.4%	3.7%
Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing	388 HK	Add	472.0	557.4	72,052	37.4	32.0	18.4%	10.4	9.6	29.3%	31.2%	20.7	17.2	2.4%	2.8%
Nasdaq Inc	NDAQ US	Not rated	207.4	na	34,680	28.2	27.2	13.6%	5.4	5.0	19.3%	19.0%	21.4	20.6	1.0%	1.1%
Deutsche Boerse AG	DB1 GR	Not rated	137.9	na	29,667	20.6	19.0	10.4%	3.7	3.3	18.6%	18.0%	14.8	13.7	2.3%	2.5%
CME Group Inc	CME US	Not rated	232.0	na	83,370	34.9	31.9	10.6%	3.1	3.0	9.0%	9.4%	27.4	25.3	2.7%	3.0%
Average						26.4	26.1	6.8%	6.0	5.6	25.1%	22.4%	17.0	16.1	3.0%	2.8%





Refinitiv ESG Scores

ESG in a nutshell













Singapore Exchange (SGX) was given a B as its combined ESG score by Refinitiv in 2021, primarily supported by a Governance pillar score of A (47% weightage of the combined ESG score). SGX outlined its sustainability initiatives under SGX FIRST (Future In Reshaping Sustainability Together), which encompasses its roadmap in integrating ESG into its multi-asset platform comprising equities, fixed income, indices and commodities. SGX is also part of a climate action group to establish a global exchange and marketplace for high-quality carbon credits, supporting organisations in their carbon reduction efforts.

Keep your eye on

SGX lacks robustness when it comes to its Environmental pillar score (C by Refinitiv), although we note that the company seeks to improve on this through initiatives to monitor, manage and offset its electricity usage and the establishment of climate-related products and services.

We also keep watch on SGX's Social pillar which has a rating of B-. On this point, SGX has committed to certain people targets for FY6/21, such as the implementation of programmes for upgrading employee skills and transition assistance programmes, as well as achieving 35 training hours per employee per year in a bid to retain talent and to increase diversity in its workforce.

Implications

We believe the progressive improvement of SGX's Environmental and Social pillars will be viewed favourably by market participants.

Should SGX be able to achieve the targets it has committed to, it is likely that its Social pillar (which holds a c.39% weightage in the combined ESG score) will improve, raising its overall ESG rating. Although ESG ratings are currently not being factored into its valuations, an improvement in its Social pillar would not only lift its ESG score but also perception on the company, resulting in a rerating, in our view. We believe SGX would thus be valued at a premium by investors that have a larger focus on sustainability.

ESG highlights

SGX stands strong among its peers with regards to taking charge of governance-related concerns. This could be attributed to its disciplined management team that strives to make SGX a regulatory body-led example in ESG.

Implications

We believe SGX is considered by market participants as an example of successful integration of sustainability-linked values into business processes. We believe progressive developments on this front will be viewed positively (in terms of valuations) as the demand for sustainable investing picks up.

Trends

From FY16 to FY21, SGX maintained its combined ESG score of B, with minor fluctuations between grades for the Environmental, Social and Governance pillars, across the years.

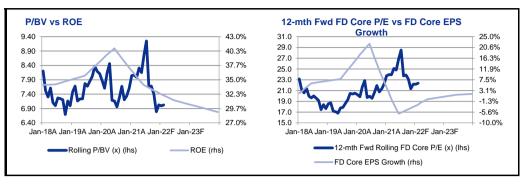
Implications

While we applaud SGX for its consistency in maintaining its overall ESG metrics, there is scope to further develop its strength in the Environmental and Social pillars. Steps taken towards managing these aspects will be the key to seeing overall improvements in its ESG ratings.

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, REFINIT



BY THE NUMBERS



(S\$m)	Jun-20A	Jun-21A	Jun-22F	Jun-23F	Jun-24F
Total Net Revenues	1,053	1,056	1,076	1,107	1,141
Gross Profit	1,053	1,056	1,076	1,107	1,141
Operating EBITDA	656	625	592	601	613
Depreciation And Amortisation	(90)	(95)	(57)	(55)	(55)
Operating EBIT	566	531	535	546	558
Financial Income/(Expense)	13	13	12	13	15
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	(2)	(4)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0	(1)	0	0	0
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	577	539	544	556	569
Exceptional Items	(6)	(2)	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	571	536	544	556	569
Taxation	(99)	(91)	(94)	(96)	(98)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	472	446	450	460	471
Minority Interests	(0)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(2)
Preferred Dividends	0	0	0	0	0
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	472	445	448	458	469
Recurring Net Profit	477	447	448	458	469
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	477	447	448	458	469

Cash Flow					
(S\$m)	Jun-20A	Jun-21A	Jun-22F	Jun-23F	Jun-24F
EBITDA	655.7	625.2	591.6	601.3	613.0
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	23.2	34.8	2.2	3.5	3.9
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7
Other Operating Cashflow	5.9	(25.3)	(2.5)	5.1	5.3
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	10.5	0.3	12.0	13.2	14.5
Tax Paid	(72.4)	(109.4)	(94.1)	(96.2)	(98.5)
Cashflow From Operations	633.6	536.3	519.9	537.6	548.9
Capex	(34.6)	(45.3)	(53.8)	(55.4)	(57.1)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	(292.8)	(159.7)	(40.0)	(40.0)	(39.0)
Other Investing Cashflow	13.3	7.0	12.0	13.2	14.5
Cash Flow From Investing	(314.1)	(198.0)	(81.8)	(82.2)	(81.5)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	289.4	173.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	(17.0)	(15.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares Repurchased	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividends Paid	(321.2)	(342.5)	(347.2)	(352.7)	(352.7)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(21.0)	(24.6)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash Flow From Financing	(69.7)	(209.9)	(347.2)	(352.7)	(352.7)
Total Cash Generated	249.8	128.4	90.8	102.7	114.6
Free Cashflow To Equity	608.9	511.5	438.1	455.4	467.3
Free Cashflow To Firm	319.5	338.4	438.1	455.4	467.3

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(S\$m)	Jun-20A	Jun-21A	Jun-22F	Jun-23F	Jun-24F
Total Cash And Equivalents	907	1,060	1,125	1,201	1,288
Total Debtors	758	749	763	785	809
Inventories	0		40	80	119
Total Other Current Assets	2	0	0	0	0
Total Current Assets	1,668	1,809	1,928	2,066	2,216
Fixed Assets	243	146	143	143	145
Total Investments	72	51	48	45	42
Intangible Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Non-Current Assets	696	1,017	1,017	1,017	1,017
Total Non-current Assets	1,011	1,213	1,208	1,205	1,203
Short-term Debt	304	0	0	0	0
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	809	868	884	910	938
Other Current Liabilities	126	118	112	115	117
Total Current Liabilities	1,238	986	997	1,024	1,055
Total Long-term Debt	0	468	468	468	468
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	130	113	113	113	113
Total Non-current Liabilities	130	581	581	581	581
Total Provisions	62	66	66	66	66
Total Liabilities	1,430	1,633	1,644	1,671	1,702
Shareholders' Equity	1,245	1,385	1,486	1,592	1,708
Minority Interests	4	5	6	8	10
Total Equity	1,249	1,390	1,492	1,600	1,718

Key Ratios					
	Jun-20A	Jun-21A	Jun-22F	Jun-23F	Jun-24F
Revenue Growth	15.7%	0.3%	1.9%	2.9%	3.1%
Operating EBITDA Growth	25.2%	(4.6%)	(5.4%)	1.6%	1.9%
Operating EBITDA Margin	62.3%	59.2%	55.0%	54.3%	53.7%
Net Cash Per Share (S\$)	0.56	0.55	0.61	0.68	0.76
BVPS (S\$)	1.16	1.28	1.37	1.47	1.57
Gross Interest Cover	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Effective Tax Rate	17.3%	16.9%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	68.2%	77.6%	77.4%	77.0%	75.2%
Accounts Receivables Days	285.7	260.5	256.4	255.2	255.6
Inventory Days	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accounts Payables Days	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ROIC (%)	147%	69%	58%	56%	56%
ROCE (%)	42.2%	30.7%	27.7%	26.9%	26.1%
Return On Average Assets	19.3%	15.3%	14.2%	13.9%	13.6%

Key Drivers					
	Jun-20A	Jun-21A	Jun-22F	Jun-23F	Jun-24F
Equity SDAV (S\$m)	1,300.0	1,300.0	1,400.0	1,400.0	1,300.0
Total derivatives trading volumes (m)	243.7	255.8	268.6	282.1	296.2

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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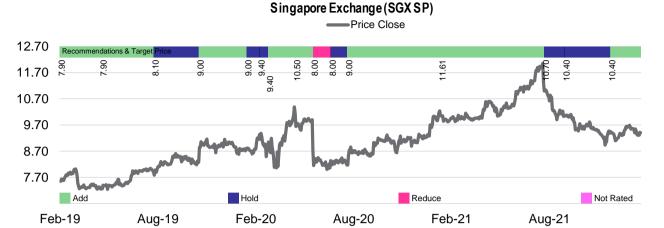
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Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)



Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2021, Anti-Corruption 2021

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