





Malaysia

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Hold 2 Sell 1 Buy 9 Current price: RM0.995 Target price: RM1.21 Previous target: RM1.33 Up/downside: 21.6% CGS-CIMB / Consensus: -0.1% VSID.KL Reuters: VSI MK Bloombera: US\$863.9m Market cap: RM3,808m Average daily turnover: US\$1.09m RM4.75m Current shares o/s: 3,812m Free float: 60.3% *Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

We reduce our FY23/24F core EPS by 9.8/11.6% as we dial back our order growth assumptions for its US-based customer and coffee brewer customer.



		Source: Bloomberg		
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M	
Absolute (%)	2.6	0.5	-27.9	
Relative (%)	9	9.3	-22.1	

Major shareholders	% held
Beh/Gan Family	28.1
KWAP	11.4

VS Industry Bhd

Long-term growth prospects intact

- We see a stronger FY23F from an alleviation of supply chain disruptions and a ramp-up of box-built assembly for newly-secured product models.
- While near-term sentiment could be weak due to concerns over demand slowing down, we believe VSI's long-term growth prospects are intact.
- We continue to like VSI for its diversified clientele and as it is a key beneficiary of manufacturing diversions by OEM/brand owners.

Positive on alleviation of supply chain disruptions but...

To recap, VS Industry's (VSI) 3QFY7/22 core net profit fell 30.6% yoy. At its recent analyst briefing, VSI shared that the main reasons for this drop were i) supply chain disruptions from labour and component shortages, which led to operational inefficiencies and lower product deliveries to key customers as well as ii) suboptimal production levels for its newest US-based customer, resulting in continued losses for this line. On the labour front, VSI received a new batch of 1k workers in May-Jun 2022 and is targeting to bring in an additional 2.7k workers by end-Sep 2022. This should lead to sequentially stronger sales as well as margin accretion from better utilisation rates, in our view. The additional batches of workers should be sufficient to cater for most of its secured orders going forward, notwithstanding worsening component shortages.

... cautious given potential demand slowdowns

We dial back our revenue growth assumptions for FY23-34F based on VSI's current guidance as the group remains cautious on potential end-demand slowdown for a few of its key clientele that serve the mass market segments. Nevertheless, the group still anticipates healthy demand growth from two of its key customers, Customer X and Customer Y, having secured new product models from these customers in CY21. Our channel checks reveal that end-demand for Customer X's products remains robust despite inflationary pressures, which serves as a testament to the customer's strong branding coupled with its premium/luxury target market.

VSI remains a key beneficiary of manufacturing diversions

We reduce our FY23/24F core EPS by 9.8/11.6% as we dial back our order growth assumptions for VSI's US-based customer and coffee brewer customer. Our TP moderates to RM1.21, still based on 15.7x CY23F P/E, in line with mean. Nevertheless, we still forecast EPS growth of 42%/38% for FY23/24F, primarily owing to a ramp-up of box-built assembly for new product models for Customers X and Y as well as margin accretion from higher utilisation rates at its facilities post a full replenishment of its workforce going into FY23F. We believe VSI is still a key beneficiary of manufacturing diversions by OEM/brand owners exploring a diversification of their manufacturing bases. While we see weaker near-term sentiment for the stock owing to concerns over inflationary pressures amid the rising interest rate environment, we believe there is limited downside to the share price as most of the negatives have been priced into its valuations at this juncture. Reiterate Add.

Financial Summary	Jul-20A	Jul-21A	Jul-22F	Jul-23F	Jul-24F
Revenue (RMm)	3,243	4,002	4,052	4,696	5,406
Net Profit (RMm)	116.5	245.5	182.6	259.7	358.1
Normalised EPS (RM)	0.035	0.071	0.048	0.068	0.094
Normalised EPS Growth	(31%)	100%	(32%)	42%	38%
FD Normalised P/E (x)	28.16	14.05	20.77	14.60	10.59
Price To Sales (x)	1.17	0.95	0.94	0.81	0.70
DPS (RM)	0.026	0.042	0.016	0.023	0.031
Dividend Yield	2.61%	4.22%	1.61%	2.29%	3.16%
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.76	8.49	10.25	7.75	5.77
P/FCFE (x)	36.1	124.2	15.5	17.4	12.2
Net Gearing	(8.1%)	0.1%	(5.7%)	(9.5%)	(14.5%)
P/BV (x)	2.22	1.86	1.76	1.64	1.50
ROE	8.1%	14.4%	8.7%	11.7%	14.8%
% Change In Normalised EPS Estimates			0.3%	(9.8%)	(11.6%)
Normalised EPS/consensus EPS (x)			1.02	0.92	1.09

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Analyst(s)



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Long-term growth prospects intact

Other highlights from the briefing >

- We gather that total all-in recruitment costs for its new batch of foreign workers average c.RM3k per worker, notwithstanding the RM1,850 foreign work levy, which VSI mentioned that it had already paid in the past. Assuming the group recruits 2k/1.7k foreign workers in 4QFY22F/1QFY23F, this could amount to a total one-off recruitment cost of RM6m/5.1m, which we have yet to factor into our forecasts.
- Additionally, VSI projects minimal RM1m-2m impact from the Cukai Makmur tax in FY22F.
- VSI expects its PCBA operations to still be affected by semiconductor chip shortages in 4QFY22F.
- As for the new contract wins (3 new models) it secured from Customer X in 1HFY22, the group shared that it has started production for one of these models and projects a ramp-up in the production of the 3 new models in the subsequent quarters as it gradually replenishes its workforce.
- The group did not disclose details of its upcoming social compliance audit findings but said the findings were broadly in line with its expectations.

Outlook and valuations >

Despite the near-term uncertainties faced by the group, we reiterate our Add call as we believe that most of the negatives surrounding the stock have been baked into the share price (-27% YTD), providing an attractive entry point at this juncture. Our TP of RM1.21 for VSI is based on 15.7x CY23F P/E, in line with its historical 5-year mean P/E. We continue to like VSI for its diversified clientele and as it is a key beneficiary of manufacturing diversions from OEM/brand owners. VSI trades at an attractive 12M FWD P/E of 12x, which is close to 1 s.d. below its 5-year mean.

The securing of new clients, especially for its China operations, is a key potential re-rating catalyst. Downside risks include lower-than-expected end-demand for its products and higher learning curve costs for production works for its new customers.

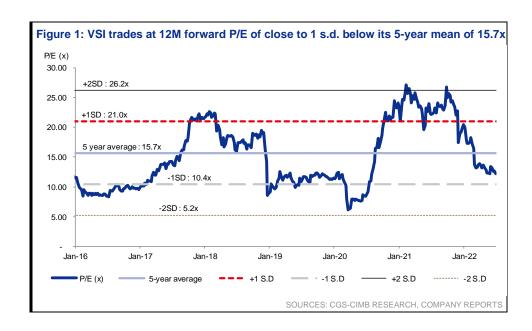




Figure 2: Earnings revision table										
FYE Jul (RM m)	2021A		2022F			2023F			2024F	
		Old	New	chg	Old	New	chg	Old	New	chg
Revenue	4,002	4,437	4,052	(9%)	5,322	4,696	(12%)	6,252	5,406	(14%)
EBITDA	463	370	370	(0%)	517	477	(8%)	680	613	(10%)
Core pretax profit	354	245	246	(0%)	390	352	(10%)	551	486	(12%)
Core net profit	263	182	183	(0%)	288	260	(10%)	405	358	(12%)
SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS										



ESG in a nutshell

VSI is one of the largest electronic manufacturing services (EMS) players in South East Asia and is involved in the manufacturing, assembly and sale of plastic mould components and parts. It also has an electronic product business division. VSI aims to deliver sustainable shared value via five pillars: Environment, Welfare of Employees, Community, Marketplace and Suppliers. VSI has been included in the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia Index since Jun 2018.

Keep your eye on

VSI recently worked with migrant worker rights specialist Andy Hall to address any potential gaps it faced in its labour practices. They had both identified potential labour issues that could be present among VSI's workers hired through the Recalibrated Worker programme. Pursuant to that, VSI hired PwC to conduct an independent social compliance audit (based on the 11 International Labour Organization (ILO) indicators of forced labour), which will encompass all of VSI's workers, both local and foreign.

ESG highlights

On the environmental front, VSI allocates resources to waste management, particularly the handling of non-scheduled waste. The volume of recycled waste at VSI increased by 26.7% in FY20 (vs. FY19). Noise pollution and air emissions are less of an issue for VSI compared with other manufacturing companies.

Trends

Given the increasing attention on forced labour practices in Malaysia and South East Asia, VSI's treatment and sourcing of labour will be a key trend to watch. Changes in government policies regarding labour, including sourcing requirements and minimum wages, will impact VSI.

Implications

We believe the audit findings will remain a key focus area among investors. We believe any potential issues raised in the audit will allow VSI to address these gaps, which could potentially serve as an unwritten certification that VSI's operations have zero elements of forced labour. This will not only reduce the risk of loss of key customers but could also serve as a strong re-rating catalyst for the stock, in our view. We have lowered our P/E valuations to partially reflect the ESG risks present in this development.

Implications

We believe that VSI's focus on maintaining its competitiveness as a manufacturing partner requires it to continuously improve its manufacturing practices. This includes the implementation of a lean manufacturing programme, which targets to reduce wasteful processes, materials and defects in its production.

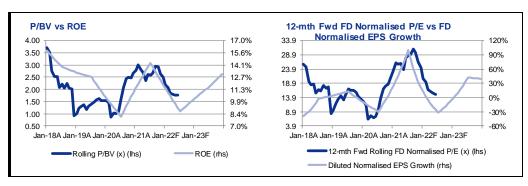
Implications

In addition to adhering to stringent labour standards, VSI invested in new machines and equipment to increase automation and boost the productivity of its workforce. A portion of the RM64m capital expenditure it spent in FY20 was utilised for investments in new technology and initiatives to boost productivity. Additionally, VSI is investing in the construction of new hostels, which cost approximately RM30m for FY23F. The hostels comply with the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act, 1990 (No. 446).

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, REFINITIV



BY THE NUMBERS



Profit & Loss					
(RMm)	Jul-20A	Jul-21A	Jul-22F	Jul-23F	Jul-24F
Total Net Revenues	3,243	4,002	4,052	4,696	5,406
Gross Profit	321	527	365	470	541
Operating EBITDA	271	463	370	477	613
Depreciation And Amortisation	-92	-101	-119	-126	-130
Operating EBIT	179	362	252	351	484
Financial Income/(Expense)	-10	-7	-6	-1	1
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	2	-1	0	2	2
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0	0	0	0	0
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	171	354	246	352	486
Exceptional Items	-18	-24	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	153	329	246	352	486
Taxation	-49	-88	-66	-95	-131
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	104	242	180	257	355
Minority Interests	12	4	3	3	3
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Preference Dividends (Australia)					
Net Profit	116	246	183	260	358
Normalised Net Profit	122	266	180	257	355
Fully Diluted Normalised Profit	134	270	183	260	358

Cash Flow					
(RMm)	Jul-20A	Jul-21A	Jul-22F	Jul-23F	Jul-24F
EBITDA	270.9	463.1	370.4	476.8	613.5
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	71.2	(270.8)	85.6	(114.5)	(122.5)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	57.8	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3
Other Operating Cashflow					
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(10.2)	(7.3)	(5.7)	(1.1)	0.9
Tax Paid	(49.2)	(100.7)	(66.4)	(94.9)	(131.3)
Cashflow From Operations	340.4	95.6	395.2	277.6	371.8
Capex	(115.6)	(233.6)	(150.0)	(60.0)	(60.0)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	13.4	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	(9.5)	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing Cashflow	2.9	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash Flow From Investing	(108.9)	(213.2)	(150.0)	(60.0)	(60.0)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(126.8)	148.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	20.5	49.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares Repurchased	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividends Paid	(48.1)	(105.7)	(73.0)	(103.9)	(143.2)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(15.2)	(0.1)	(11.3)	(11.3)	(11.3)
Cash Flow From Financing	(169.5)	91.6	(84.3)	(115.2)	(154.5)
Total Cash Generated	62.0	(26.1)	160.9	102.4	157.3
Free Cashflow To Equity	104.8	30.5	245.2	217.6	311.8
Free Cashflow To Firm	248.8	(106.3)	256.5	228.8	323.1

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(RMm)	Jul-20A	Jul-21A	Jul-22F	Jul-23F	Jul-24F
Total Cash And Equivalents	405	402	537	640	797
Total Debtors	884	992	999	1,158	1,333
Inventories	332	637	606	695	800
Total Other Current Assets	106	201	201	201	201
Total Current Assets	1,727	2,232	2,344	2,694	3,131
Fixed Assets	847	990	1,052	991	926
Total Investments	152	267	267	267	267
Intangible Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Non-Current Assets	107	109	109	109	109
Total Non-current Assets	1,107	1,366	1,428	1,367	1,302
Short-term Debt	224	316	316	316	316
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	576	847	909	1,042	1,200
Other Current Liabilities	39	37	37	37	37
Total Current Liabilities	839	1,200	1,262	1,395	1,553
Total Long-term Debt	28	89	89	89	89
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	24	24	24	24	24
Total Non-current Liabilities	52	112	112	112	112
Total Provisions	66	68	68	68	68
Total Liabilities	957	1,381	1,443	1,576	1,733
Shareholders' Equity	1,709	2,041	2,150	2,306	2,521
Minority Interests	168	177	177	177	177
Total Equity	1,877	2,218	2,327	2,483	2,698

Key Ratios					
	Jul-20A	Jul-21A	Jul-22F	Jul-23F	Jul-24F
Revenue Growth	(18.5%)	23.4%	1.2%	15.9%	15.1%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(18.1%)	70.9%	(20.0%)	28.7%	28.7%
Operating EBITDA Margin	8.4%	11.6%	9.1%	10.2%	11.3%
Net Cash Per Share (RM)	0.04	-0.00	0.03	0.06	0.10
BVPS (RM)	0.45	0.54	0.56	0.60	0.66
Gross Interest Cover	10.37	32.04	22.30	31.07	42.84
Effective Tax Rate	31.9%	26.6%	27.0%	27.0%	27.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	35.8%	39.2%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%
Accounts Receivables Days	106.0	85.6	89.7	83.8	84.3
Inventory Days	44.05	50.85	61.50	56.17	56.22
Accounts Payables Days	80.41	74.73	86.92	84.26	84.32
ROIC (%)	7.7%	16.5%	9.4%	13.2%	17.7%
ROCE (%)	8.3%	15.0%	9.4%	12.5%	16.2%
Return On Average Assets	4.43%	8.45%	4.99%	6.58%	8.34%

Key Drivers					
	Jul-20A	Jul-21A	Jul-22F	Jul-23F	Jul-24F
Customer X (RM m)	1,300.0	1,275.6	1,403.2	1,964.4	2,160.9
Coffee Brewer Customer (RM m)	715.0	717.5	717.5	574.0	602.7
Pool Cleaner Customer (RM m)	227.0	358.8	394.6	394.6	434.1
US-Based customer (RM m)	162.0	797.3	956.7	765.4	841.9
Customer Y (US-Based) (RM m)	-	-	150.0	550.0	900.0
Others (RM m)	164.3	318.9	-	-	-
Blended EBITDA margin (%)	8.4%	11.6%	9.1%	10.2%	11.3%

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

VS Industry Bhd (VSI MK)



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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Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
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