



Malaysia

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 12 Hold 2 Sell 0 Current price: RM1.83 RM2.40 Target price: Previous target: RM2.40 31.1% Up/downside: CGS-CIMB / Consensus: 9.6% BERA.KL Reuters: **BAUTO MK** Bloombera: US\$472.1m Market cap: RM2,126m US\$0.62m Average daily turnover: RM2.73m Current shares o/s: 1,155m Free float: 29.2% *Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

No change.



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	1.7	1.7	14.4
Relative (%)	2.3	1.4	19.3

Major shareholders Employees Provident Fund	% held 20.0
Dynamic Milestone	13.8
Permodalan Nasional Berhad	12.5

Bermaz Auto Berhad

Accelerating growth in 1QFY4/23

- 1QFY23 core NP was in line at 28%/29% of our/consensus FY23F core NP.
- Core net profit rose 4.4x yoy on stronger sales volume and higher share of associate profit. 3.0 sen first interim DPS declared for 1QFY23.
- We expect BAuto to maintain a healthy sales volume in 2QFY23F on the back of robust order backlog. Reiterate Add with an unchanged RM2.40 TP.

1QFY4/23 sales rose 2.2x yoy, core net profit up 4.4x yoy

Bermaz Auto's (BAuto) 1QFY4/23 revenue surged 2.2x yoy to RM717m, driven by stronger sales volume from its Malaysian and Philippine operations, which jumped 2.4x and 34% yoy respectively. It attributed the higher sales to 1) expansion in its new models offering following the addition of Kia and Peugeot marques, and 2) Malaysian consumers rushing to register new vehicles before the expiry of the sales and service tax (SST) exemption grace period. 1QFY23 EBIT margin expanded 5% pts yoy to 9.8%, mainly due to: 1) better operating leverage from higher sales volume, 2) a turnaround in its Philippine operation, 3) higher share of profit from 30%-owned Mazda Malaysia Sdn Bhd (MMSB) on the back of higher sales volume, and 4) favourable forex movement following the appreciation of ringgit against the Japanese yen. Overall, 1QFY23 core net profit jumped 4.4x yoy to RM51.3m (1QFY22: RM11.7m). It declared its first interim DPS of 3.0 sen for the quarter (1QFY22: 0.5 sen).

Sequentially lower sales volume due to ongoing parts shortages

Revenue in 1QFY4/23 slid 20% qoq mainly due to the ongoing shortages of semiconductor chips and components, extended lockdown in China and disruption in global supply chain which had impacted Mazda sales volume. However, this was partially offset by higher sales from new marques like Kia with the introduction of Carnival CKD programme in the quarter.

Projecting 24% sales volume growth in FY23F

We expect BAuto to maintain its growth momentum in FY4/23F, driven by its robust order backlog. BAuto had an outstanding order backlog of about 8.5k units for Mazda as of 12 Sep. In addition, the group is also absorbing 50% of the SST increase from Jul till year-end for new bookings under Mazda, Kia and Peugeot. We believe this will provide a healthy order bank going into CY23F. Overall, we project the group to deliver 13k sales volume for Mazda, and 4k for Kia and Peugeot combined, translating to 24% volume growth in FY4/23F. Moreover, we see upside to BAuto's sales volume once it kicks off the local assembly of new sports utility vehicles (SUVs) for Mazda and Kia at Inokom by 4QCY22F.

Reiterate Add with an unchanged RM2.40 TP

Reiterate Add rating on BAuto with an unchanged RM2.40 TP, based on 14x CY23F P/E, in line with our target sector P/E. The stock trades at an attractive CY23F P/E of 10.7x, more than 0.5 s.d. below its 5-year mean P/E of 14x. BAuto also offers a decent 5.2-5.8% dividend yield for CY22-23F, supported by strong free cash flow and net cash position of RM462m or RM0.40/share as at end-Jul 22.

Financial Summary	Apr-21A	Apr-22A	Apr-23F	Apr-24F	Apr-25F
Revenue (RMm)	2,288	2,325	2,785	3,018	3,160
Operating EBITDA (RMm)	172.0	225.4	262.7	287.8	293.6
Net Profit (RMm)	133.8	155.7	184.7	204.8	209.7
Normalised EPS (RM)	0.12	0.13	0.16	0.18	0.18
Normalised EPS Growth	32.7%	16.3%	18.6%	10.9%	2.4%
FD Normalised P/E (x)	15.79	13.57	11.44	10.32	10.08
DPS (RM)	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.11
Dividend Yield	3.55%	4.78%	5.46%	6.01%	5.74%
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.12	6.20	4.94	4.13	3.63
P/FCFE (x)	4.13	8.62	11.51	10.35	10.05
Net Gearing	(58.5%)	(71.7%)	(74.3%)	(76.4%)	(78.3%)
P/BV (x)	3.74	3.33	2.88	2.50	2.19
ROE	25.9%	26.0%	27.0%	26.0%	23.2%
% Change In Normalised EPS Estimates			0%	0%	0%
Normalised EPS/consensus EPS (x)			1.04	1.00	0.93

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Analyst(s)



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Key catalysts and risks ➤

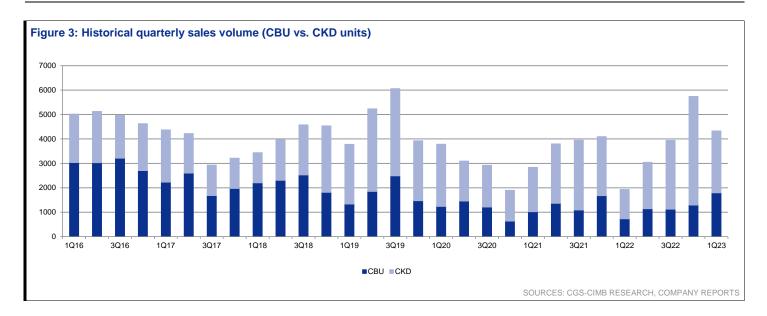
We see potential new localisation projects, stronger contributions from new Kia and Peugeot models, and higher dividend payouts as re-rating catalysts. Intensifying competition in the SUV market, extended delay in semiconductor chip and component shortages, and depreciation of the ringgit vs. US\$ and JPY are key downside risks.

FYE Apr (RM m)	1QFY23	1QFY22	yoy %	4QFY22	qoq %	Prev.	
,			chg		chg	FY23F	Comments
Revenue	717	321	> 100	897	(20.1)	2,785	Driven by higher sales from Malaysia and the Philippines in 1QFY23
Operating costs	(640)	(298)	> 100	(784)	(18.4)	(2,522)	
EBITDA	77	23	> 100	113	(31.9)	263	Above expectation
EBITDA margin (%)	10.7	7.0		12.6		9.4	·
Depn & amort.	(5.5)	(4.8)	13.9	(5.9)	(6.1)	(21.6)	In line
EBIT	71.4	17.7	> 100	107.0	(33.3)	241	
Interest expense	(2.5)	(2.7)	(7.8)	(2.8)	(9.3)	(13.0)	Total borrowings of RM199.9m as at end-Jul 22
Interest & invt inc	2.9	1.9	54.2	1.9	49.9	9.5	Total cash of RM662m as at end-Jul 22
Associates	4.0	(0.9)	> 100	9.5	(57.6)	20.0	
Exceptionals	(1.2)	(1.5)	(19.5)	(0.2)	> 100	-	
Pretax profit	74.6	14.5	> 100	115.4	(35.4)	257.6	Above expectation
Tax	(18.0)	(4.1)	> 100	(34.6)	(48.1)	(64.4)	Above expectation
Tax rate (%)	24.1	28.6		30.0		25.0	
Minority interests	(6.5)	(0.1)	> 100	(2.1)	> 100	(8.4)	
Net profit	50.2	10.3	> 100	78.7	(36.3)	184.7	In line
Core net profit	51.3	11.7	> 100	78.9	(34.9)	184.7	1QFY23 results made up 28% of CGS-CIMB
EPS (sen)	4.3	0.9	> 100	6.8	(36.3)	16.1	and 29% of Bloomberg consensus full-year forecast
Core EPS (sen)	4.4	1.0	> 100	6.8	(35.0)	16.1	
Net DPS (sen)	3.0	0.5	> 100	4.5	(33.3)	10.0	

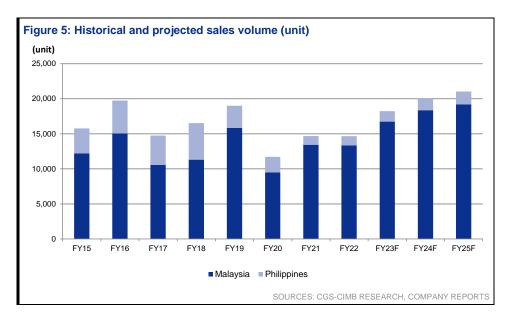
Figure 2: Revenue and pr	re-tax prof	it breakdo	wn			
	1QFY23	1QFY22	yoy %	4QFY22	qoq %	
Revenue breakdown (RM m)			chg		chg	Comments
Malaysia	658	271	> 100	840	(21.7)	Sales volume in Malaysia rose 2.4x yoy in 1QFY23
Philippines	59	50	17.4	57	2.9	Sales volume in the Philippines rose 34% yoy in 1QFY23
Total	717	321	> 100	897	(20.1)	
	1QFY23	1QFY22	yoy %	4QFY22	qoq %	
Revenue contribution (%)			chg		chg	
Malaysia	91.8	84.4	7.4	93.6	(1.8)	
Philippines	8.2	15.6	(7.4)	6.4	1.8	
Total	100.0	100.0		100.0		
	1QFY23	1QFY22	yoy %	4QFY22	qoq %	
Pretax profit (RM m)			chg		chg	
Malaysia	63.9	14.5	> 100	104.0	(38.6)	
Philippines	7.1	0.7	> 100	1.1	> 100	
Mazda Malaysia	2.9	(1.9)	> 100	7.9	(63.6)	
Inokom	1.0	0.9	9.0	2.0	(49.5)	
Others	(0.3)	0.3	> 100	0.3	> 100	
Total	74.6	14.5	> 100	115.4	(35.4)	
						SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORT













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FIGUITA	ю.	Sector	comparison

Company	Ticker	Recom.	Price	Target Price	Mkt Cap	P/E	(x)	P/B\	' (x)	Recurring	ROE (%)	EV/EBI	ΓDA (x)	Dividend Y	ield (%)
			(RM)	(RM)	(US\$ m)	CY22F	CY23F	CY22F	CY23F	CY22F	CY23F	CY22F	CY23F	CY22F	CY23F
Bermaz Auto Berhad	BAUTO MK	Add	1.83	2.40	473	12.0	10.7	3.0	2.6	27.3%	26.3%	5.0	4.2	5.2%	5.8%
DRB-Hicom	DRB MK	Hold	1.59	1.50	683	25.7	24.7	0.4	0.4	1.7%	1.7%	4.8	4.7	1.3%	1.3%
Tan Chong Motor	TCM MK	Reduce	1.13	0.98	164	na	na	0.3	0.3	-1.1%	0.0%	8.6	7.5	1.8%	1.3%
UMW Holdings	UMWH MK	Add	3.08	4.40	799	10.3	9.9	0.8	0.8	8.6%	8.3%	7.9	7.2	2.6%	2.9%
Sime Darby Bhd	SIME MK	Hold	2.23	2.40	3,376	13.4	13.5	0.9	0.9	7.2%	6.9%	5.5	5.2	5.2%	5.3%
Sector average						14.1	13.7	0.8	0.8	5.8%	5.8%	5.7	5.4	4.2%	4.4%

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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ESG

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Refinitiv ESG Scores







ESG in a nutshell

Bermaz Auto (BAuto) is principally involved in the distribution of completely knocked down (CKD) and completely built up (CBU) Mazda vehicles in Malaysia and the Philippines. BAuto was appointed as the franchised holder in Malaysia for Kia in Apr 2021 and Peugeot in Dec 2020.

Its sustainability activities are focused on improving safety standards for consumers, climate protection, green technology via energy efficient vehicles (EEVs), local content vendor development, high value-added manufacturing and promotion of exports of value-added products as outlined under Malaysia's National Automotive Policy (NAP). BAuto has been included in the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia Index since Jun 2020.

Keep your eye on

Global automakers are increasing their efforts on achieving cleaner exhaust emissions and better fuel economy in order to reduce CO2 emissions and the world's dependence on fossil fuels. The Malaysian government in Budget 2022 announced its plan to waive excise duties and taxes for electric vehicles (EVs) until 2023 for CBU models and 2025 for CKD models. This is part of the government's strategy to promote EV adoption in the domestic market.

Implications

We think BAuto is well positioned to capitalise on the structural change in the automotive industry from internal combustion engines (ICE) to EVs, given that its principal partner Mazda has announced plans to introduce 13 electrified models by 2025. Moreover, BAuto has launched new hybrid and battery EV (BEV) models, such as Mazda MX-30 and Kia EV6 in 2022.

ESG highlights

BAuto has seven Board members, including four independent non-executive directors. Currently, it has two female directors on its Board, which represents about 29% of the Board composition.

Implications

BAuto's board composition is in compliance with the requirement under Practice 5.2 of Malaysian Code of Corporate Governance (MCCG), i.e. the Board of a large company should have independent directors as the majority. However, we are negative on the Board's gender diversity as it falls short of 30% women directors requirement.

Trends

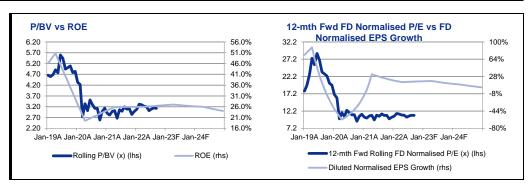
In terms of product responsibility, BAuto is one the few auto distributors in the country that offer at least five years of free service and maintenance to its customers. The group carried out an aggressive promotional campaign offering six years of free service and maintenance to its customers during the initial phase of Malaysia's auto sales tax holiday in 2020 to drive sales recovery. The free service maintenance package provides owners with free scheduled maintenance, inclusive of the cost of labour, parts and lubricants. In addition, BAuto has also implemented a similar five years of free service and maintenance for its customers under Kia from Feb 2022 and Peugeot beginning Jun 2022.

Implications

The initiative received favourable market reception. We believe this kind of initiative helps to differentiate BAuto from the competition. Although this may impact near-term profit margin, we believe it should help build brand loyalty among BAuto's customers.

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, REFINITI

BY THE NUMBERS



(RMm)	Apr-21A	Apr-22A	Apr-23F	Apr-24F	Apr-25F
Total Net Revenues	2,288	2,325	2,785	3,018	3,160
Gross Profit	309	365	430	469	483
Operating EBITDA	172	225	263	288	294
Depreciation And Amortisation	(16)	(21)	(22)	(22)	(22)
Operating EBIT	156	204	241	266	271
Financial Income/(Expense)	(7)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	21	18	20	24	26
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0	0	0	0	0
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	169	219	258	288	297
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	169	219	258	288	297
Taxation	(40)	(60)	(64)	(72)	(74)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	129	159	193	216	222
Minority Interests	5	(3)	(8)	(11)	(13)
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Preference Dividends (Australia)					
Net Profit	134	156	185	205	210
Normalised Net Profit	129	159	193	216	222
Fully Diluted Normalised Profit	134	156	185	205	210

Cash Flow					
(RMm)	Apr-21A	Apr-22A	Apr-23F	Apr-24F	Apr-25F
EBITDA	172.0	225.4	262.7	287.8	293.6
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital					
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	323.1	127.4	3.8	5.5	6.5
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(12.8)	(10.6)	(13.0)	(13.0)	(13.0)
Tax Paid	(40.1)	(61.7)	(64.4)	(71.9)	(74.1)
Cashflow From Operations	442.1	280.5	189.1	208.4	213.0
Capex	(3.6)	(10.6)	(15.0)	(15.0)	(15.0)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing Cashflow	5.4	6.6	9.5	10.8	12.3
Cash Flow From Investing	1.8	(4.0)	(5.5)	(4.2)	(2.7)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	67.7	(31.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(37.2)	(78.4)	(85.3)	(94.5)	(88.4)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(7.7)	(6.1)	(13.0)	(13.0)	(13.0)
Cash Flow From Financing	22.8	(115.9)	(98.3)	(107.5)	(101.4)
Total Cash Generated	466.7	160.6	85.3	96.8	108.9
Free Cashflow To Equity	511.6	245.0	183.6	204.2	210.3
Free Cashflow To Firm	456.7	287.1	196.6	217.2	223.3

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(RMm)	Apr-21A	Apr-22A	Apr-23F	Apr-24F	Apr-25F
Total Cash And Equivalents	563.4	693.9	792.2	902.0	1,023.9
Total Debtors	148.5	142.5	170.7	185.0	193.7
Inventories	277.8	230.4	275.9	299.1	313.1
Total Other Current Assets	2.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total Current Assets	992.2	1,067.2	1,239.2	1,386.4	1,531.1
Fixed Assets	100.9	121.3	114.7	107.6	100.3
Total Investments	233.4	275.7	285.7	297.7	310.7
Intangible Assets	0.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Total Other Non-Current Assets	74.7	82.2	82.2	82.2	82.2
Total Non-current Assets	409.6	480.5	483.9	488.8	494.5
Short-term Debt	105.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	247.6	253.0	303.0	328.4	343.9
Other Current Liabilities	97.9	108.6	108.6	108.6	108.6
Total Current Liabilities	451.1	461.6	511.6	537.0	552.4
Total Long-term Debt	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	238.8	297.2	314.5	319.9	320.7
Total Non-current Liabilities	338.5	397.1	414.4	419.8	420.6
Total Provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Liabilities	789.7	858.6	926.0	956.8	973.0
Shareholders' Equity	565.4	634.3	733.9	844.4	965.7
Minority Interests	46.7	54.8	63.2	74.1	86.8
Total Equity	612.1	689.1	797.1	918.5	1,052.5

Key Ratios					
	Apr-21A	Apr-22A	Apr-23F	Apr-24F	Apr-25F
Revenue Growth	30.3%	1.6%	19.8%	8.4%	4.7%
Operating EBITDA Growth	38.6%	31.0%	16.6%	9.6%	2.0%
Operating EBITDA Margin	7.52%	9.69%	9.43%	9.54%	9.29%
Net Cash Per Share (RM)	0.31	0.43	0.51	0.61	0.71
BVPS (RM)	0.49	0.55	0.64	0.73	0.84
Gross Interest Cover	12.16	19.35	18.56	20.46	20.88
Effective Tax Rate	23.7%	27.3%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	41.0%	47.0%	46.2%	46.1%	42.1%
Accounts Receivables Days	20.41	22.84	20.53	21.57	21.88
Inventory Days	88.77	47.31	39.24	41.28	41.74
Accounts Payables Days	55.07	46.61	43.09	45.33	45.84
ROIC (%)	22.0%	59.1%	83.5%	85.3%	85.3%
ROCE (%)	21.8%	24.7%	26.6%	26.2%	23.9%
Return On Average Assets	10.0%	11.0%	12.0%	12.1%	11.4%

Key Drivers					
	Apr-21A	Apr-22A	Apr-23F	Apr-24F	Apr-25F
Malaysian sales volume	13,439.0	13,362.0	16,735.0	18,355.0	19,200.0
Philippines sales volume	1,245.0	1,304.0	1,500.0	1,670.0	1,820.0

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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643 companies under coverage for quarter ended on 30 June 2022				
	Rating Distribution (%)	Investment Banking clients (%)		
Add	68.4%	0.8%		
Hold	24.6%	0.0%		
Reduce	7.0%	0.2%		



Add

Sep-19

2.60

2.40

2.20 2.00 1.80 1.60 1.40 1.20 1.00 Autos | Malaysia

Sep-20

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Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

2.00

Mar-20

Bermaz Auto Berhad (BAUTO MK)



Sep-21

Mar-22

Recommendation	Framework
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Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.
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Mar-21