

Singapore Company Update

20 May 2024

Financial Services | Exchanges

Neutra (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): SGD10.00 (+9%) SGD9.19 (USD7,307m) Price (Market Cap): ESG score: 3.4 (out of 4) 16.3m/12.1m

Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD)

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Analyst



• Stay NEUTRAL, with SGD10 TP, 9% upside. Singapore Exchange reported strong operating data for Feb-Apr 2024. Securities daily average value (SDAV) has stayed around SGD1.2bn for three consecutive months now, and derivatives daily average volume (DDAV) has seen YoY improvement YTD-CY24. With annualised data now ahead of our expectations, we raise FY24F-26F (Jun) profit by 1.5-2.0%. While the annualised FY24F SDAV should still see a YoY decline, we remain optimistic on seeing improvements in FY25F-26F SDAV. Our FY24F-26F profit is a tad below consensus estimates.

Singapore Exchange (SGX SP)

Strong Operating Data For Feb-Apr 2024

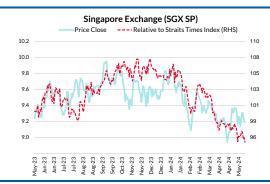
- The last three months of SDAV have been stronger than expected. SGX reported Feb-Apr 2024 SDAV of SGD1,252m (+13% YoY, +34% MoM), SGD1,190m (-2% YoY, -5% MoM), and SGD1,212m (+24% YoY, +2% MoM). This is a significant improvement from the previous five months, when the SDAV was well below the SGD1bn mark in each month. This led to a 20% QoQ rise in the SDAV for the Jan-Mar 2024 period, ie 3QFY24. This growth during 3QFY24 was driven by active trading around earnings releases and rebalancing of indices during the quarter, while retail net buying increased across all stock segments. We believe SDAV will remain elevated in the near term, given the rebalancing of indices, which has recently seen the announcement of the removal of five Singapore stocks from the MSCI Index. Based on data for the Jan-Apr 2024 period, the implied SDAV for 2HFY24 is 8% ahead of our estimates.
- Strong interest in derivative products continues. SGX saw record trading activity in commodity and FX derivatives in 3QFY24. 3QFY24 DDAV of 1.13m was up 12% YoY and QoQ. Derivative volume rose 36% YoY in Apr 2024 to 24.1m contracts as trading activity grew, while DDAV climbed 23% YoY to 1.15m contracts. Based on data for the Jan-Apr 2024 period, the implied DDAV for 2HFY24 is 4% ahead of our estimates. SGX stated that the average fee per contract for equity, currency, and commodity derivatives for 3QFY24 was SGD1.54, which is a tad below our 2HFY24 estimate.
- Nothing exciting is happening anytime soon. We continue to value SGX based on a 21x forward P/E, which is in line with its historical average. Our TP adds a 6% ESG premium to its fair value of SGD9.40. The stock is currently trading well below its historical average P/E amidst a lack of catalysts, and we see limited upside in the near term. Despite expectations of a gradual rise in dividends, SGX's forward yield of c.4% remains unexciting as compared to the market yield of 5.5% and the Singapore bank sector yield of 6.1%.

Forecasts and Valuation	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F
Total turnover (SGDm)	1,099	1,194	1,217	1,260	1,314
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	448	460	505	524	554
Recurring net profit growth (%)	2.0	2.7	9.8	3.8	5.8
Recurring P/E (x)	21.94	21.36	19.46	18.75	17.73
P/B (x)	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.1	4.7
P/CF (x)	16.84	21.99	16.54	17.09	16.55
Dividend Yield (%)	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.99	12.89	12.85	12.37	11.70
Return on average equity (%)	30.8	35.2	30.9	28.3	27.7
Net debt to equity (%)	net cash				

Source: Company data, RHB

Share Performance (%)

YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
(6.5)	2.8	(1.9)	(3.9)	(2.9)
(8.5)	(2.3)	(4.5)	(9.4)	(5.7)
52-wk Price low/high (SGD)				
	(6.5) (8.5)	(6.5) 2.8 (8.5) (2.3)	(6.5) 2.8 (1.9) (8.5) (2.3) (4.5)	(6.5) 2.8 (1.9) (3.9) (8.5) (2.3) (4.5) (9.4)



Source: Bloomberg

Overall ESG Score: 3.4 (out of 4)

E: EXCELLENT

SGX is a component of Bloomberg ESG Data Index and MSCI World ESG Leader Index. One initiative in FY2020 was the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates to offset its electricity consumption for the year. Employees are encouraged to adopt digital practices to conserve paper usage. Only 100% recyclable paper products are used and these products are sourced from certified suppliers who are committed to zero deforestation.

S: GOOD

SGX rolled out a SGD5m SGX Care Package in March 2020 to provide support and relief measures when the pandemic first broke out. Part of the funds are being used to support Singapore-listed companies, including a grant for qualifying issuers to help them facilitate virtual AGMs by harnessing technology and defraying their costs. A total of SGD1.5m was also donated to support national healthcare and community programmes.

G: EXCELLENT

SGX complies with the provisions of the Code of Corporate Governance 2018, as well as the Securities and Futures (Corporate Governance of Approved Exchanges, Approved Clearing Houses and Approved Holding Companies) Regulations 2005 (SFR 2005). It ranked 4th in the Singapore Governance & Transparency Index 2019.



Financial Exhibits

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Singapore

Financial Services

Singapore Exchange

SGX SP

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Neutral

Valuation basis

We use P/E valuation as share price is sensitive to near-term earnings volatility.

Key drivers

Our FY24 earnings forecast is most sensitive to changes in:

- i. Total securities trading volume;
- ii. Total derivatives trading volume; and
- iii. Effective trading and clearing rate.

Key risks

Key downside risks to our call include:

- i. Lower-than-expected securities market
- ii. Lower-than-expected trading in derivative contracts; and
- iii. Lower-than-expected clearing and trading rate. The converse represents upside risks.

Company Profile

Singapore Exchange is a multi-asset exchange which operates equity, fixed income and derivatives markets that provides listing, trading, clearing, settlement, depository and data services

Financial summary (SGD)	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F
Recurring EPS	0.42	0.43	0.47	0.49	0.52
DPS	0.32	0.32	0.34	0.36	0.38
BVPS	1.44	1.59	1.66	1.80	1.94
Return on average equity (%)	30.8	35.2	30.9	28.3	27.7
Valuation metrics	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F
Recurring P/E (x)	21.94	21.36	19.46	18.75	17.73
P/B (x)	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.1	4.7
FCF Yield (%)	5.5	4.0	5.2	5.1	5.3
Dividend Yield (%)	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.99	12.89	12.85	12.37	11.70
EV/EBIT (x)	16.50	15.04	15.00	14.33	13.29
Income statement (SGDm)	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F
Total turnover	1,099	1,194	1,217	1,260	1,314
Gross profit	1,099	1,194	1,217	1,260	1,314
EBITDA	634	688	678	691	716
Depreciation and amortisation	(97)	(98)	(97)	(94)	(86)
Operating profit	537	590	580	596	630
Net interest	9	113	87	43	46
Pre-tax profit	545	674	647	632	669
Taxation	(93)	(103)	(109)	(109)	(115)
Reported net profit	451	571	538	524	554
Recurring net profit	448	460	505	524	554
Cash flow (SGDm)	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F
Change in working capital	16	(162)	18	0	0
Cash flow from operations	584	447	594	575	594
Capex	(44)	(54)	(79)	(70)	(70)
Cash flow from investing activities	(550)	12	(119)	(20)	(18)
Dividends paid	(342)	(344)	(364)	(380)	(401)
Cash flow from financing activities	(109)	(433)	(382)	(386)	(408)
Cash at beginning of period	1,060	998	1,033	1,074	1,243
Net change in cash	(75)	26	93	169	169
Ending balance cash	998	1,033	1,074	1,243	1,411
D. I. (1997)					

Balance sheet (SGDm)	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F
Total cash and equivalents	1,092	1,067	1,201	1,369	1,538
Tangible fixed assets	251	193	225	201	185
Total investments	609	580	596	596	596
Total assets	3,848	3,781	3,790	3,977	4,176
Short-term debt	42	352	350	350	350
Total long-term debt	694	340	331	331	331
Total liabilities	2,299	2,078	2,010	2,053	2,099
Total equity	1,549	1,704	1,780	1,924	2,077
Total liabilities & equity	3,848	3,781	3,790	3,977	4,176

Key metrics	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F
Revenue growth (%)	4.1	8.7	1.9	3.5	4.4
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	2.1	2.7	9.8	3.7	5.8
Gross margin (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	57.7	57.6	55.7	54.8	54.4
Net profit margin (%)	41.1	47.8	44.2	41.6	42.2
Dividend payout ratio (%)	75.8	60.8	67.6	72.4	72.3
Capex/sales (%)	4.0	4.5	6.5	5.6	5.3
Interest cover (x)	72.8	81.3	84.6	87.6	92.6

Source: Company data, RHB



Figure 1: FY24 (until Apr 2024) SDAV data

Period	Total turnover (SGDm)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Trading days	SDAV (SGDm)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
3QFY22	90,695	26%	-4%	62	1,463	32%	-4%
4QFY22	79,644	-12%	-5%	61	1,306	-11%	-4%
1QFY23	68,093	-15%	-13%	64	1,064	-19%	-13%
2QFY23	69,977	3%	-3%	63	1,111	4%	0%
3QFY23	72,096	3%	-21%	62	1,163	5%	-21%
4QFY23	65,290	-9%	-18%	61	1,070	-8%	-18%
1QFY24	62,426	-4%	-8%	63	991	-7%	-7%
2QFY24	58,738	-6%	-16%	63	932	-6%	-16%
3QFY24	69,393	18%	-4%	62	1,119	20%	-4%
4QFY24	25,453			21	1,212		
Period	Total turnover (SGDm)		YoY (%)	Trading days	SDAV (SGDm)		YoY (%)
YTD-FY19	214,450		-18%	209	1,026		-18%
YTD-FY20	266,974		24%	212	1,259		23%
YTD-FY21	282,984		6%	211	1,341		6%
YTD-FY22	266,565		-6%	211	1,263		-6%
YTD-FY23	228,775		-14%	208	1,100		-13%
YTD-FY24	216,010		-6%	209	1,034		-6%

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 2: FY24 (until Apr 2024) DDAV data

Period	Volume (contracts)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Trading days	DDAV (m)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)
3QFY22	64,888,445	17%	7%	62	1.05	22%	7%
4QFY22	66,616,829	3%	22%	61	1.09	4%	24%
1QFY23	63,186,909	-5%	4%	64	0.99	-10%	4%
2QFY23	65,507,128	4%	18%	63	1.04	5%	21%
3QFY23	62,727,026	-4%	-3%	62	1.01	-3%	-3%
4QFY23	59,541,157	-5%	-11%	61	0.98	-4%	-11%
1QFY24	65,625,547	10%	4%	63	1.04	7%	6%
2QFY24	64,109,564	-2%	-2%	63	1.02	-2%	-2%
3QFY24	70,369,393	10%	12%	62	1.13	12%	12%
4QFY24	24,109,195			21	1.15		
Period	Volume (contracts)		YoY (%)	Trading days	DDAV (m)		YoY (%)
YTD-FY19	195,183,739		19%	209	0.93		19%
YTD-FY20	206,866,771		6%	212	0.98		4%
YTD-FY21	195,484,352		-6%	212	0.92		-6%
YTD-FY22	202,432,053		4%	211	0.96		4%
YTD-FY23	209,129,148		3%	208	1.01		5%
YTD-FY24	224,213,699		7%	209	1.07		7%

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 3: Monthly securities market turnover (until Apr 2024)

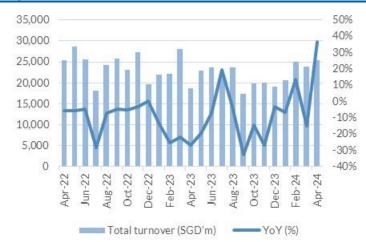
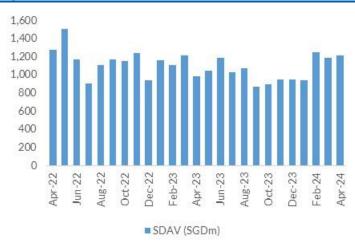


Figure 4: Monthly SDAV (until Apr 2024)



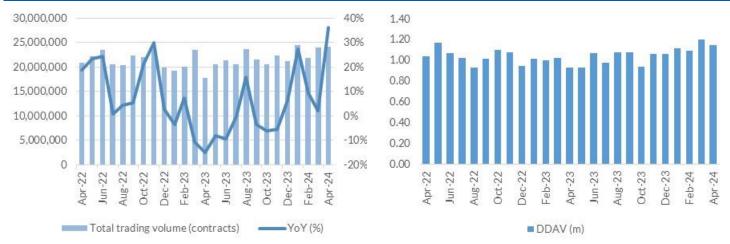
Source: Company data, RHB

Source: Company data, RHB



20 May 2024

Figure 5: Monthly derivatives trading volumes (until Apr 2024) Figure 6: Monthly DDAV (until Apr 2024)



Source: Company data, RHB

Source: Company data, RHB

Emissions And ESG

Trend analysis

Between FY20 and FY23, SGX's Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been on a gradual decline. Scope 1 emissions have declined to 30 tCO2e from 45 tCO2e. And during the same period, Scope 2 emissions have declined from 4,352 tCO2e to 3,568 tCO2e.

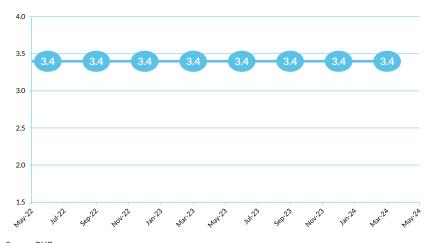
Emissions (tCO2e)	Jun-21	Jun-22	Jun-23
Scope 1	65	35	30
Scope 2	3,763	3,469	3,568
Scope 3	3,937	4,966	7,061
Total emissions	7,765	8,470	10,659

Source: Company data, RHB

Latest ESG-Related Developments

- SGX's disclosure of climate-related risks and opportunities uses scenario analysis, in line with the
 recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).
- SGX's shelf of offerings and suite of ESG products have been continuously expanding. For example, in FY2023, it worked with MSCI on developing the methodology for the MSCI Climate Action Indexes, which were launched in 2022. The MSCI Climate Action Indexes are designed to help institutional investors seeking to invest in the transition and finance companies' emissions reduction to drive change in the real economy, with inputs from over 30 asset owners.
- SGX plans to further embed sustainability into not only its business and company but the overall
 ecosystem, laying the foundations for being the exchange of choice for climate and sustainabilityrelated products and solutions.

ESG Rating History



Source: RHB

Recommendation Chart



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2024-03-18	Neutral	10.0	9.4
2024-01-15	Neutral	9.6	9.9
2023-10-20	Neutral	10.3	9.6
2023-09-14	Neutral	10.3	9.8
2023-08-18	Neutral	10.3	9.6
2023-07-13	Neutral	9.9	9.6
2023-05-05	Neutral	9.8	9.5
2023-04-13	Neutral	9.0	9.5
2023-03-13	Neutral	8.6	8.6
2023-02-09	Neutral	9.4	9.2
2022-12-07	Neutral	9.3	9.1
2022-10-19	Neutral	9.0	8.5
2022-08-18	Neutral	10.3	10.0
2022-07-14	Neutral	10.7	9.7
2022-05-26	Neutral	10.4	9.8

Source: RHB, Bloomberg



RHB Guide to Investment Ratings

Buy: Share price may exceed 10% over the next 12 months

Trading Buy: Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer-

term outlook remains uncertain

Neutral: Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next

12 months

Take Profit: Target price has been attained. Look to accumulate at lower levels Sell: Share price may fall by more than 10% over the next 12 months

Not Rated: Stock is not within regular research coverage

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