

# Malaysia Results Review

5 February 2024

Westports (WPRTS MK)

# Transport | Marine Port

# Neutra (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): MYR4.12 (8.9%) MYR3.78 (USD2,733m) Price (Market Cap): ESG score: 2.8 (out of 4) Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD) 5.00m/1.07m

## **Analyst**

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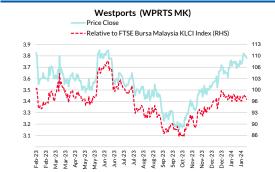


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**Share Performance (%)** 

#### YTD 12m 1m 3m 6m 4.7 **Absolute** 3.6 12.2 89 (1.8)Relative (0.7)0.3 6.9 3.9 (3.6)52-wk Price low/high (MYR) 3.15 - 3.85



Source: Bloomberg

# • Still NEUTRAL, with new DCF-derived MYR4.12 TP from MYR3.60, 9% upside, c.5% yield. FY23 results exceeded our and consensus' expectations marginally. Monthly container volumes handled by Westports in Dec 2023 were at a record high, signalling a recovery in regional trade activities. The group also declared a final interim dividend of 8.7 sen.

**Ending The Year With Historical-High Volumes** 

- Ending the year on a higher note. 4Q23 core operating earnings were at MYR206.1m (+5.7% QoQ, +29.7% YoY), bringing FY23 earnings to MYR779.4m (+23.4% YoY). This exceeded our and Streets' full-year estimates at 105% and 104%. In terms of segments, 4Q23 container revenue was relatively stable at MYR460m (+5% YoY) despite an 11% increase in container volumes due to a much lower value-added services (VAS) contribution. Storage charges were also lower as containers' average dwell time eased by >20%.
- FY23 throughput analysis. Westports managed a total of 2.87m TEUs (+5% QoQ; +11% YoY) in 4Q23 with transshipment and gateway constituting about 57% and 43% of total volume. FY23 container volume reached 10.88m TEUs, largely within our expectations (103% of our FY23 container assumptions). Container volumes exceeded Westports' initial guidance of low single-digit growth, due to repositioning of empty boxes in 1H23 and stronger gateway TEUs in 2H23, especially in Dec 2023. Geographically, intra-Asia regional trades (c.65% of container volume) continued to underpin overall volumes, with a robust 12% YoY growth.
- Outlook. RHB Economics is anticipating a stronger recovery in 1H24, buoyed by the resilience of the US and ASEAN economies, rebound of the global technology cycle, and sustained economic growth in China. We revise FY24-26F container volumes up by 5-8% on the back of growing evidence of improved trade activities in China and regional economies. Nevertheless, management still has a cautious stance on 2024 throughput growth.
- Valuation. Post results, our FY24-26F earnings are largely unchanged. However, we lowered our WACC to 5.6% from 7.3% following updates to our debt-to-equity ratio target. Our DCF-derived TP is now MYR4.12 after incorporating a 4% ESG discount based on Westports' ESG score of 2.8. We maintain our NEUTRAL call as Westports is fairly valued, with an implied FY24 P/E of 16.3x, closely aligned with its historical average of 16.8x and that of Malaysian peers (17.2x).
- Downside risks: Lower-than-expected TEU volumes, higher-than-expected operating costs, and higher-than-expected tariff revision. The converse represents upside risks.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover (MYRm)	2,069	2,152	2,282	2,409	2,543
Recurring net profit (MYRm)	700	779	789	828	880
Recurring net profit growth (%)	(4.8)	11.4	1.2	5.1	6.3
Recurring P/E (x)	18.43	16.54	16.35	15.56	14.64
P/B (x)	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.2
P/CF (x)	13.44	12.96	11.87	11.52	10.94
Dividend Yield (%)	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.8	5.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.00	10.66	9.88	9.38	5.26
Return on average equity (%)	20.0	20.8	22.1	22.3	47.6
Net debt to equity (%)	12.9	7.7	9.3	3.4	net cash

Source: Company data, RHB

# Overall ESG Score: 2.8 (out of 4)

## E: GOOD

Westports organises environmental initiatives such as mangrove planting and recycling programmes. In terms of water conservation. Westports consumed 1.01m m3 of water in 2019, representing a 22% drop YoY.

## S: GOOD

The company regularly organises and supports various community-based programmes and initiatives. It works closely with volunteers, the local community, community government agencies to and neighbourhoods and lives. These include gotong-royong, dengue prevention programme and basic first aid classes.

# G: GOOD

46% of its board members are independent. 23% are female, which is still below the Malaysian Code of Corporate Governance requirement of 30%. Westports provides full disclosure on its directors' remunerations, including salaries and bonuses. It holds regular investor briefings, embodying good transparency and disclosure practices.



# **Financial Exhibits**

A ·
Asia
Malaysia
Transport
Westports
WPRTS MK
Neutral
Valuation basis
We use DCF
Key drivers
i. TEU volume and container operating costs

# Key risks

i. Lower-than-expected TEU volume and higherthan-expected operating costs. The converse represents upside risks

# **Company Profile**

Westports is a leading port operator in Port Klang with ~75% of the market share. The company has nine container terminals with a capacity of 14m TEUs annually.

Financial summary (MYR)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring EPS	0.21	0.23	0.23	0.24	0.26
DPS	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.19
BVPS	0.96	1.03	1.06	1.12	1.18
Return on average equity (%)	20.0	20.8	22.1	22.3	47.6
Valuation metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Recurring P/E (x)	18.43	16.54	16.35	15.56	14.64
P/B (x)	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.2
FCF Yield (%)	6.3	6.9	7.4	7.5	7.7
Dividend Yield (%)	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.8	5.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.00	10.66	9.88	9.38	5.26
EV/EBIT (x)	14.21	13.49	12.32	11.66	5.94
Income statement (MYRm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total turnover	2,069	2,152	2,282	2,409	2,543
Gross profit	1,177	1,174	1,393	1,480	2,543
EBITDA	1,210	1,235	1,339	1,387	2,439
Depreciation and amortisation	(273)	(259)	(265)	(271)	(277)
Operating profit	937	976	1,074	1,116	2,162
Net interest	(52)	(42)	(37)	(26)	(19)
Pre-tax profit	885	934	1,037	1,090	2,143
Taxation	(244)	(227)	(249)	(261)	(278)
Reported net profit	640	707	789	828	1,865
Recurring net profit	700	779	789	828	880
Cash flow (MYRm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Change in working capital	(29)	(90)	32	20	20
Cash flow from operations	959	995	1,086	1,119	1,178
Capex	(145)	(107)	(128)	(154)	(185)
Cash flow from investing activities	(356)	(216)	(248)	(286)	(330)
Dividends paid	(525)	(534)	(591)	(621)	(660)
Cash flow from financing activities	(640)	(757)	(816)	(782)	(821)
Cash at beginning of period	706	552	578	571	622
Net change in cash	(37)	22	21	51	27
Ending balance cash	669	574	599	622	648
Balance sheet (MYRm)	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total cash and equivalents	552	578	571	622	648
Tangible fixed assets	1,776	1,739	1,738	1,769	1,827
Total assets	5,282	5,339	5,658	5,727	5,812
Short-term debt	125	125	125	125	125
Total long-term debt	850	725	782	626	470
Total liabilities	2,007	1,819	2,041	1,916	1,792
Total equity	3,274	3,520	3,617	3,811	4,020
Total liabilities & equity	5,282	5,339	5,658	5,727	5,812
Key metrics	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
	2.3	4.0	6.0	5.6	5.6
Revenue growth (%)		11.4	1.2	5.1	6.3
Revenue growth (%) Recurrent EPS growth (%)	(4.8) 56.9	11.4 54.6	1.2 61.0	5.1 61.4	
Revenue growth (%)	(4.8) 56.9		1.2 61.0 58.7	5.1 61.4 57.6	100.0
Revenue growth (%) Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%)	(4.8)	54.6	61.0	61.4	6.3 100.0 95.9 73.3
Revenue growth (%) Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%) Operating EBITDA margin (%)	(4.8) 56.9 58.5	54.6 57.4	61.0 58.7	61.4 57.6	100.0 95.9

7.0

14.5

5.0

18.5

5.6

22.6

6.4

29.9

7.3

71.4

Source: Company data, RHB



Capex/sales (%)

Interest cover (x)

Figure 1: Earnings review

FYE Dec (MYRm)	4Q22	3Q23	4Q23	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	FY22	FY23	YoY (%)	Comments
Operational revenue	511	528	537	1.7	5.1	2,055	2,090	1.7%	
- Container	440	458	460	0.4	4.5	1,774	1,805	1.7%	Transhipment and gateway volume increased 5% YoY and 20% YoY while the handling of empties contributed 27% to total container volumes
- Conventional	37	33	39	18.2	5.4	155	139	-10.3%	volumes
- Marine	21	24	24	0.0	14.3	76	92	21.1%	
- Rental	13	13	14	7.7	7.7	50	54	8.0%	
Operational costs	(216)	-216	-218	0.9	0.9	(865)	(853)		
Fuel	(48)	-43	-46	7.0	-4.2	(201)	(163)	-18.9%	
Electricity	(12)	-14	-14	0.0	16.7	(49)	(58)	18.4%	
Manpower	(67)	-72	-70	-2.8	4.5	(267)	(286)	7.1%	
Depreciation	(52)	-51	-51	0.0	-1.9	(206)	(204)	-1.0%	
M&R	(21)	-23	-23	0.0	9.5	(81)	(91)	12.3%	
Others	(16)	-13	-14	7.7	-12.5	(61)	(51)	-16.4%	
EBITDA	286	309	337	9.1	17.9	1215	1296	6.7%	
EBITDA margin (%)	56	61	63			59.1	62.0	4.9%	
Depreciation & amortisation	-65	-64	-65	2.1	0.0	(265)	(259)	-2.1%	
EBIT	221	245	272	10.9	23.0	950	1,037	9.2%	
EBIT margin (%)	43	49	51			46.2	49.6	7.4%	
Finance income	4	3	3	18.7	-8.9	12	11	-11.2%	
Finance costs	-16	-14	-14	2.0	-14.1	(65)	(53)	-18.5%	
Exceptional Items	0	0	-14	nm	nm	0	0	nm	
PBT	251	237	263	11.1	4.7	944	1,006	6.6%	
PBT margin (%)	49	47	49			45.9	48.1	4.8%	
Tax	-16	-53	-57	7.0	251.4	(244)	(227)	-6.9%	
Effective tax rate (%)	-6	-22	-22			-25.8	-22.5		
Net profit	235	184	206	12.3	-12.3	700	779	11.3%	
Net profit margin (%)	46	36	38			34.1	37.3		
Core net profit	206	182	207	13.7	0.4	700	779	11.2%	Results exceeded our and consensus' forecasts
Core net profit margin (%)	40	36	38			34.1	37.3		IOICCASES
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Source: RHB, Company

Figure 2: Peer comparison

Company	Mkt Country Cap		Country	Price 3-Feb-24		PER (x)		Div. Yld (%)	ROE (%)	EV/ EBITDA	NP gro	wth (%)	PEG
Company	•	(USDm)	(USDm) (Local Actual 1 Y	1 Yr Fwd		1 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	1 Yr Fwd	2 Yr Fwd			
Westports Holdings	MA	2739.5	3.80	16.0	16.3	15.6	4.6	22.6	10.2	-1.5	3.9	4.0	
Bintulu Port Holdings	MA	559.2	5.75	19.2	23.0	22.3	2.2	6.5	6.5	-16.3	3.1	7.3	
Suria Capital Holdings	MA	152.1	2.08	11.3	12.9	11.6	2.5	4.7	4.6	-12.2	11.0	1.1	
Mkt. Cap Weighted Avg.		2272.2		16.3	17.2	16.5	4.1	19.2	9.4	-4.4	4.1	4.4	
Simple Avg.		1150.3		15.5	17.4	16.5	3.1	11.3	7.1	-10.0	6.0	4.1	

Source: Bloomberg, RHB



# Westports

5 February 2024

Transport | Marine Port

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FYE 31 Dec (MYR m)	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY28F	FY29F	FY30F	FY31F	FY32F	FY33F	Terminal
CFO	1,085	1,119	1,178	1,228	1,280	1,330	1,383	1,439	1,501	1,562	
+ Interest (1 - Tax Rate)	33	28	20	15	9	4	(1)	(9)	(19)	(31)	
- capital expenditure	(227)	(260)	(299)	(344)	(397)	(459)	(532)	(617)	(716)	(834)	
Free cash flow to firm (FCFF)	891	887	899	898	892	875	851	813	766	697	17,458
Discount factor	0.89	0.84	0.80	0.75	0.71	0.67	0.63	0.60	0.56	0.53	0.53
PV of FCFF	795	747	715	675	633	587	539	486	432	372	9,313

3.9%
0.70
7.3%
5.6%
1.5%
15,295
578
(1,250)
14,623
3,410
4.29
-4%
4.12

Source: RHB

# **Emissions And ESG**

Trend	

The reduced emissions intensity in 2022 was a reflection of the proportionate environmental impact arising from the operations at the port

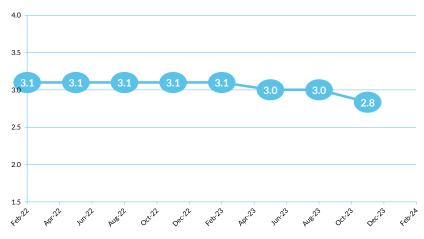
Emissions (tCO2e)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Scope 1	139,917	136,779	na
Scope 2	75,106	71,463	na
Scope 3	9,178	8,480	na
Total emissions	224,201	216,722	na

Source: Company data, RHB

# **Latest ESG-Related Developments**

• Westports expressed its commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and started testing electric terminal trucks in 1Q23.

# **ESG** Rating History



Source: RHB

# **Recommendation Chart**



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2023-11-10	Neutral	3.60	3.46
2023-10-31	Neutral	3.74	3.36
2023-07-28	Neutral	3.65	3.51
2023-05-08	Neutral	3.65	3.60
2023-01-25	Neutral	3.78	3.80
2022-11-07	Neutral	3.56	3.30
2022-07-29	Neutral	3.80	3.50
2022-01-28	Neutral	4.32	3.90
2021-11-01	Neutral	4.54	4.34
2021-08-02	Neutral	4.25	4.22
2021-04-29	Neutral	4.45	4.25
2021-02-03	Neutral	4.75	4.48
2020-11-27	Neutral	4.50	4.28
2020-07-26	Neutral	3.85	3.65
2020-05-08	Neutral	3.85	3.66

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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