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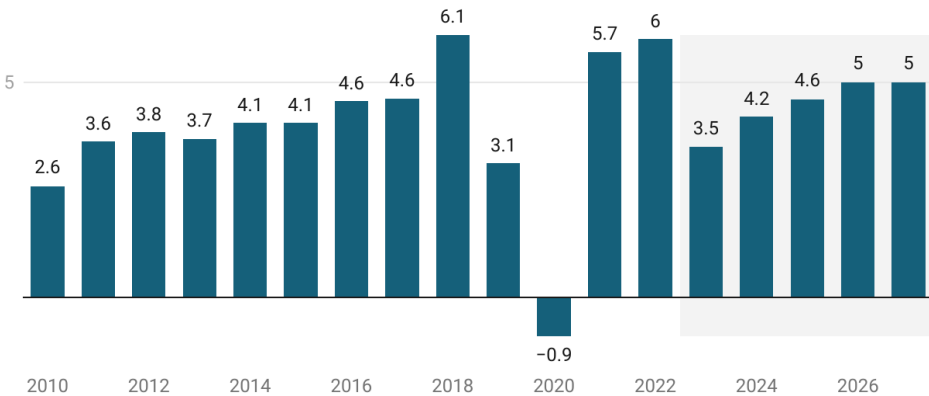
Pakistan Macro Overview

Patrick Curran

21 September 2022

Real GDP growth (%yoy)

Real GDP growth has been nearly 6% over the past 2 years versus potential growth closer to 4.5-5%, resulting in overheating of economy. Growth is projected to moderate this year on a tighter policy stance and impact from the floods before rising towards 5% over the medium-term



*Year corresponds to fiscal year (eg 2022 = FY 21/22)

Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: IMF WEO, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

Policy rate versus inflation (%)

Inflation has risen to 27.25% on the back of higher food and fuel prices, pushing the policy rate to -12.25% despite 800bps of rate hikes by the SBP over the past year

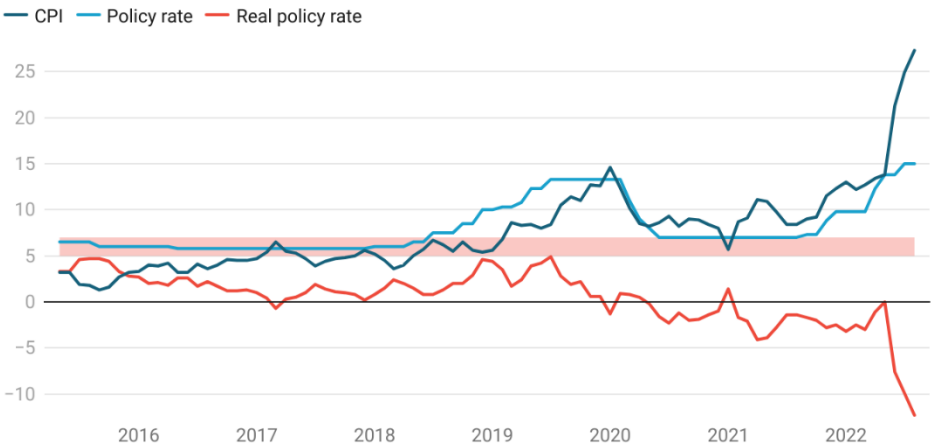
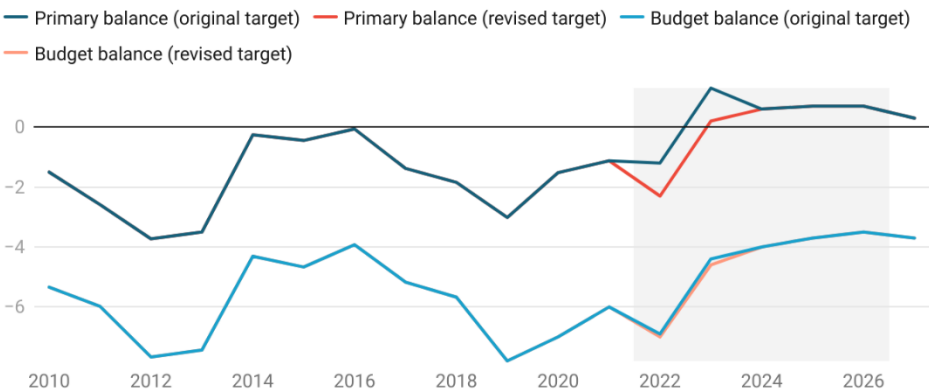


Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: Haver, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

Budget and primary balances (% of GDP)

Primary deficit came in at 2.3% of GDP in FY 21/22 versus 1.2% target, but is projected to contract by 2.5pp (or 2pp excluding one-off transactions) in FY 22/23 to reach a 0.2% surplus. Consolidation will be driven by 0.6pp of new revenue measures and 1.2pp of subsidy cuts

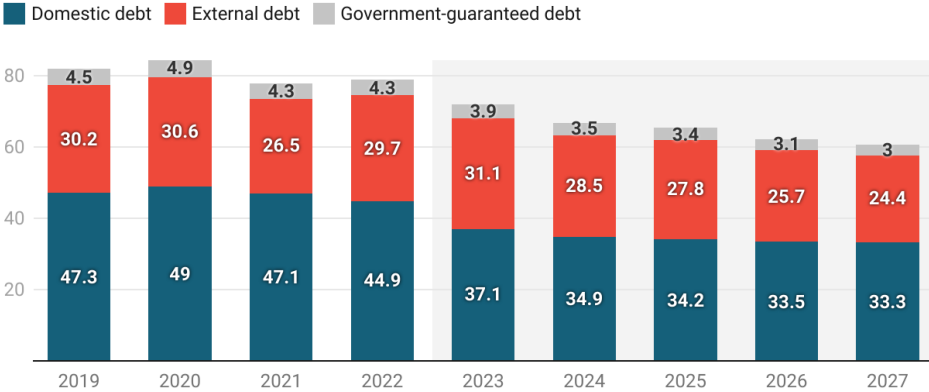


*Year corresponds to fiscal year (eg 2022 = FY 22/23)

Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: IMF WEO, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

General government debt (% of GDP)

Government government and government-guaranteed debt is projected to decline from 78.9% of GDP in FY 21/22 to 60.7% by FY 26/27, but interest absorbed c40% of government revenue in FY 21/22 and external debt service is projected to be c50% of exports in FY 22/23



*Year corresponds to fiscal year (eg 2022 = FY 22/23)

Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: IMF WEO, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

Current account balance (US\$ mn, NSA)

The CAD fell to US\$0.7bn in the 3 months to Apr from US\$2.1bn in the 3 months through Jan, but has widened back out to US\$1.6bn in the 3 months to Jul on higher fuel imports. It is projected by the IMF to fall from 4.7% of GDP in FY 21/22 to 2.5% in FY 22/23

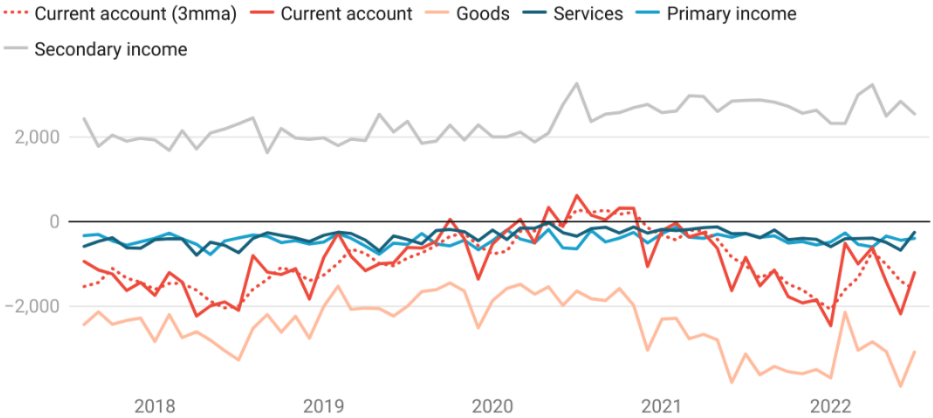


Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: Haver, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

Balance of payments (US\$ mn)

Pakistan has relied on "other investment" inflows to fund its current account deficit given weak FDI and portfolio flows, resulting in consistent pressure on reserves

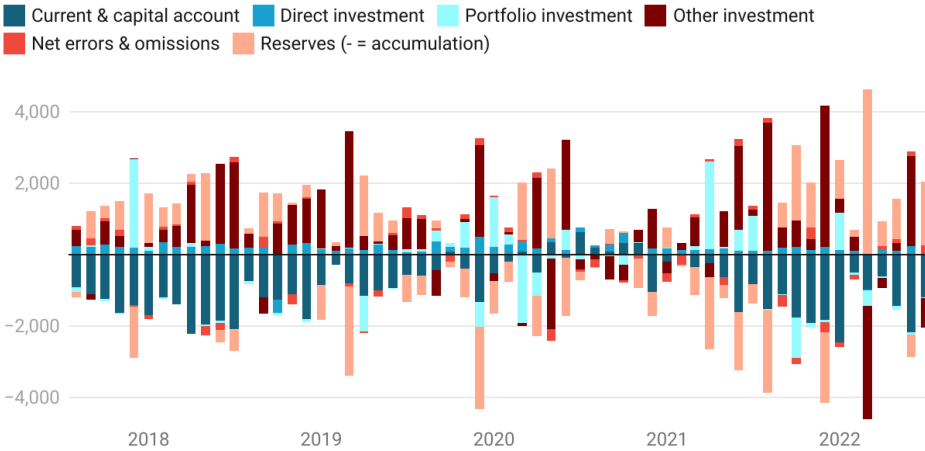


Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: Haver, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

Liquid FX reserves with SBP (US\$ bn)

FX reserves jumped after the IMF's US\$1.16bn disbursement at the end of August but remain alarmingly low c1.5 months of goods & services imports c25% of GEFR



Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: Haver, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

Gross external financing requirement (% of FX reserves)

Projected US\$30.8bn GEFR in FY 22/23 to be covered by US\$31bn external financing pipeline. US\$2.2bn of FDI, and US\$3.8bn of IMF disbursements, pushing reserves to over US\$16bn



Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: Haver, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

PKSTAN 7 ¾ 04/08/2031 (mid price)

Pakistan's eurobonds have plummeted over the past year, with the '31s trading below US\$50 versus an estimated recovery value of US\$53-71 at a 12% exit yield



Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: Bloomberg, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

PKR spot and non-deliverable forward rates

The PKR has depreciated by nearly 30% over the past year and 10% over the past month, with forwards pricing in another 18% of depreciation over the next 12 months

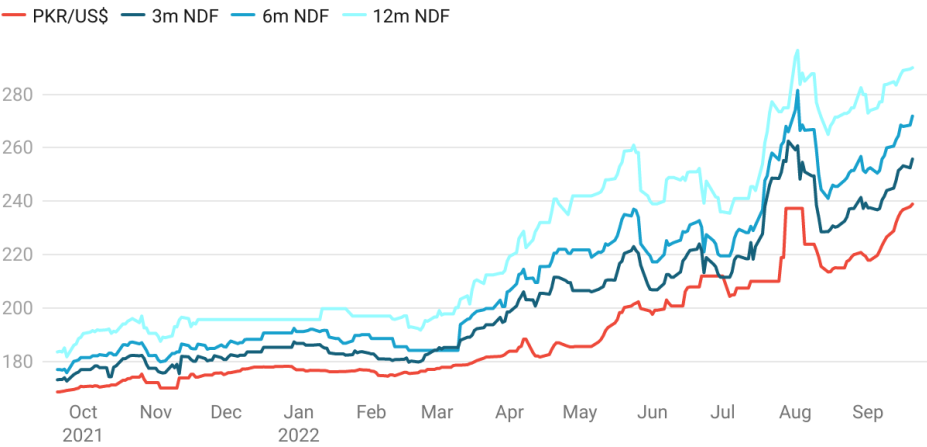


Chart: Patrick Curran • Source: Bloomberg, SBP, Tellimer Research • Created with Datawrapper

Risk & Reward

The Investment Case for Pakistan

Raza Jafri, CFA
Head of Equities

Wajid Rizvi
Head of Research

Pakistan partners of:



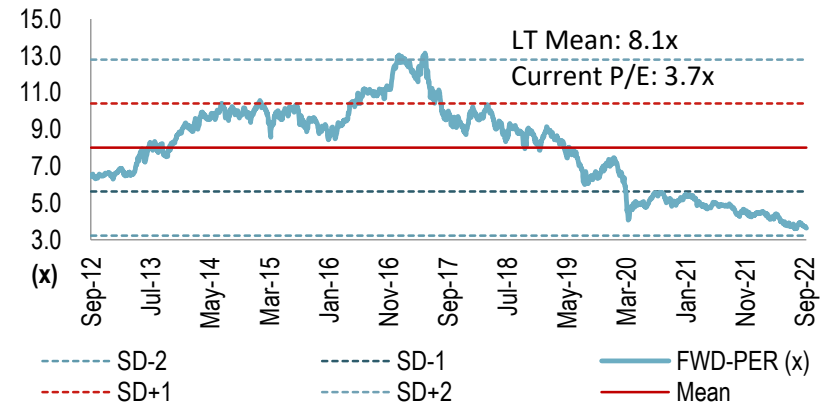
Valuations are ultra-cheap

Pakistan's P/E has usually been 6-12x. It is less than 4x now. Mean reversion = 100%+ upside

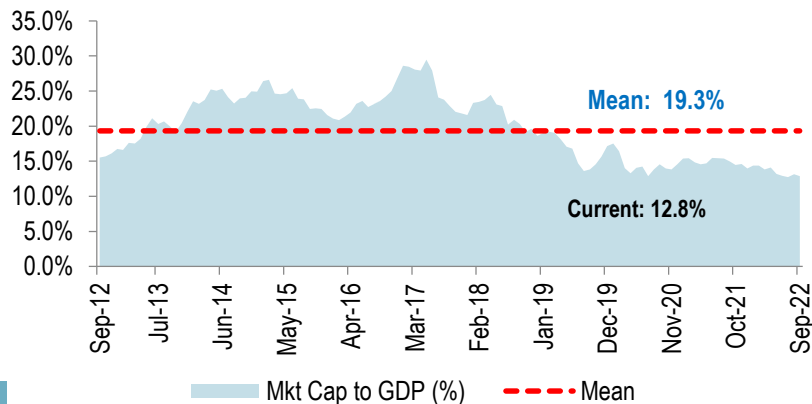
Mkt Cap to GDP is 1sd below mean. All-time high was 47% in 2007

Discount to peer markets is a wide 60%, double the historical discount

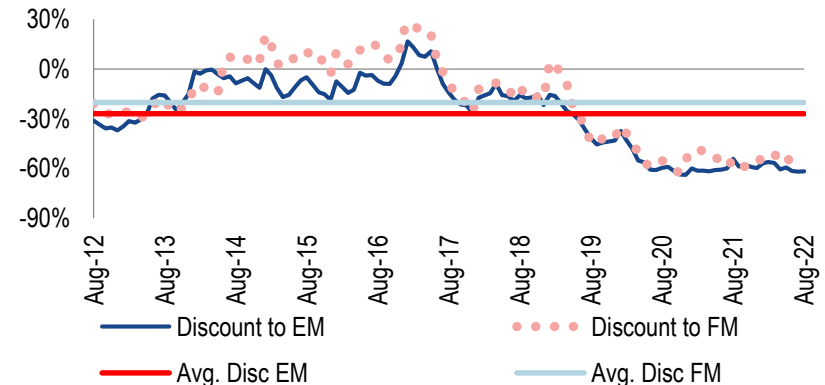
P/E is much below usual trough levels



Market Cap to GDP is near Covid & GFC lows



The cheapest we have seen Pakistan vs. peers



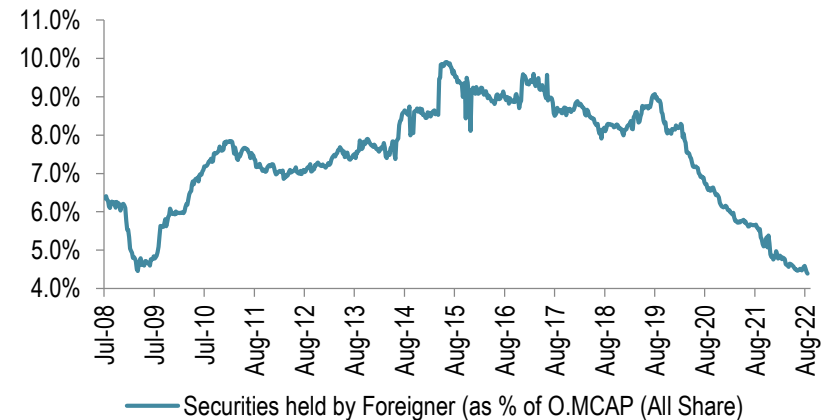
Rotation into fixed income appears complete

FIs now own less than 5% of the market.
FI selling has slowed in 2022

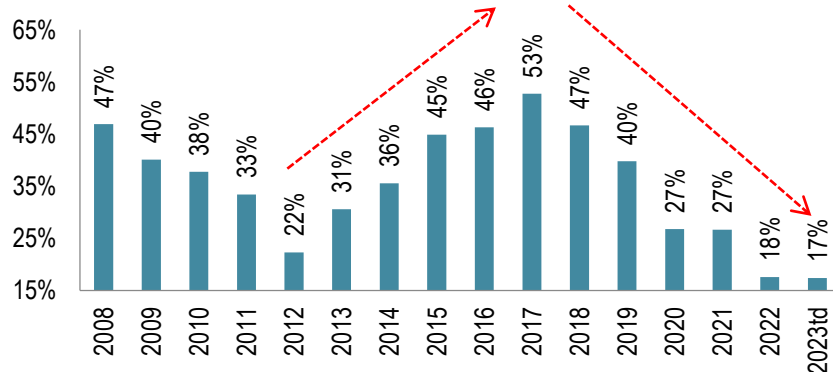
Local AUMs dedicated to equities are the lowest on record

Local Individuals have kept buying. State-owned entities can join if pushed

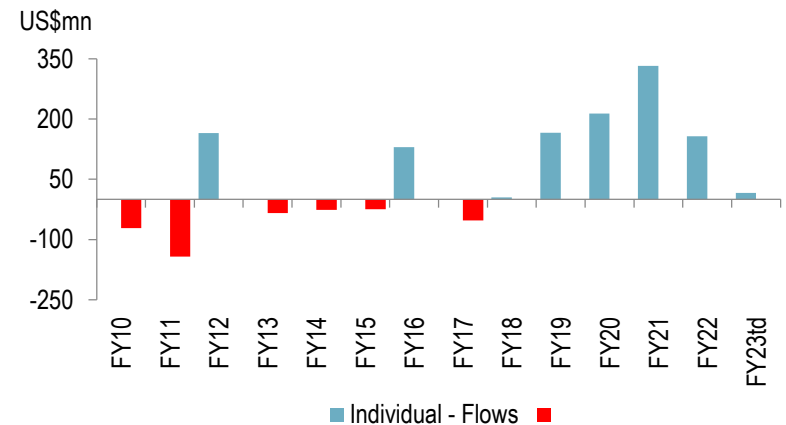
Foreign selling has slowed, and Foreign holdings are the lowest since GFC



Equity allocations for mutual funds at lows

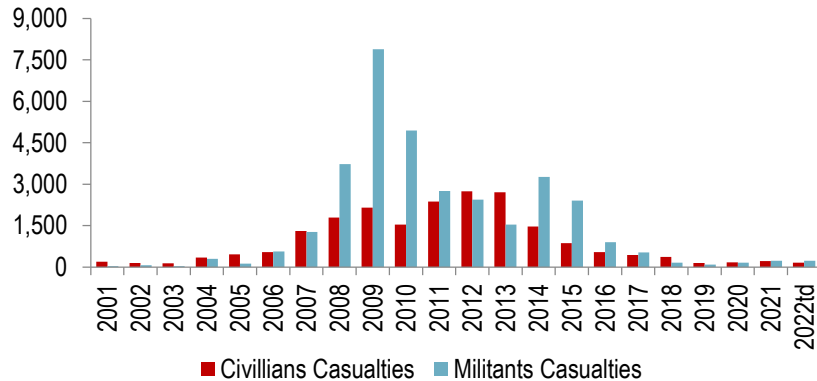


Local individuals have kept buying

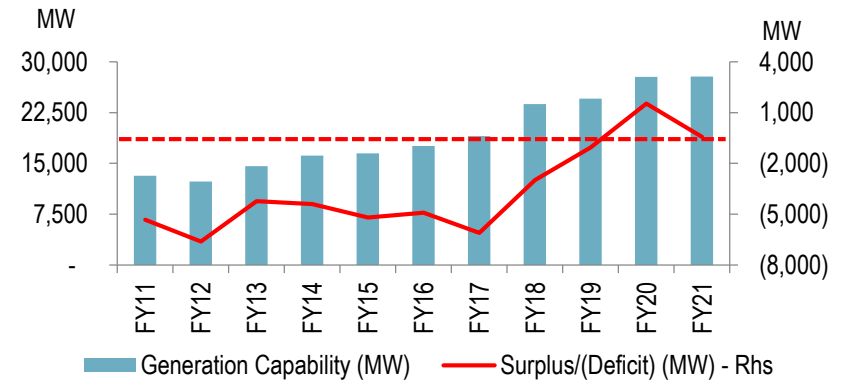


Pakistan has got some things right

Significant improvement in security conditions



Blackouts have reduced

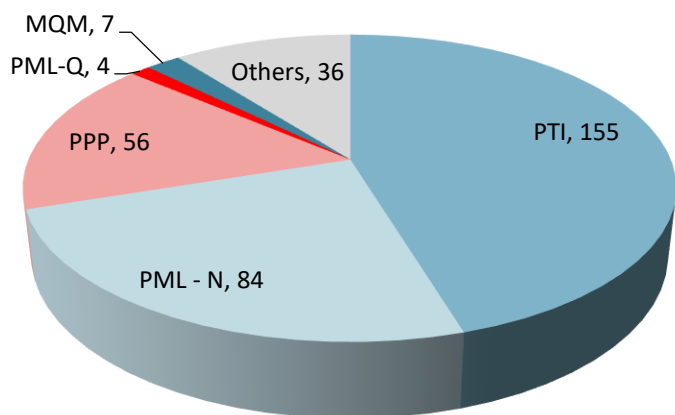


Improving relations with the US (gradually)

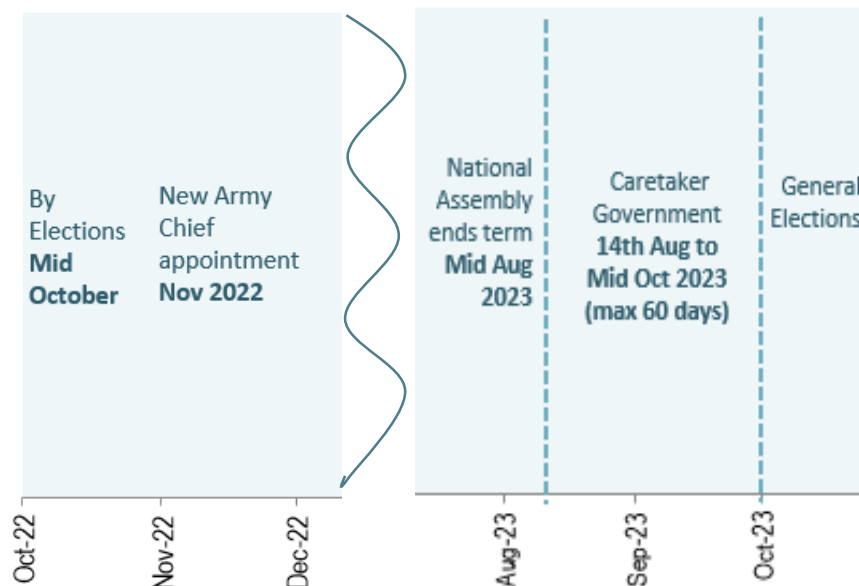


Politics is already priced in

National Assembly Composition (pre VONC)



Politics Timeline



Important political events, that will set the stage for the medium-term, will happen within the next 12 months. These include the appointment of the new Army Chief and General Elections.

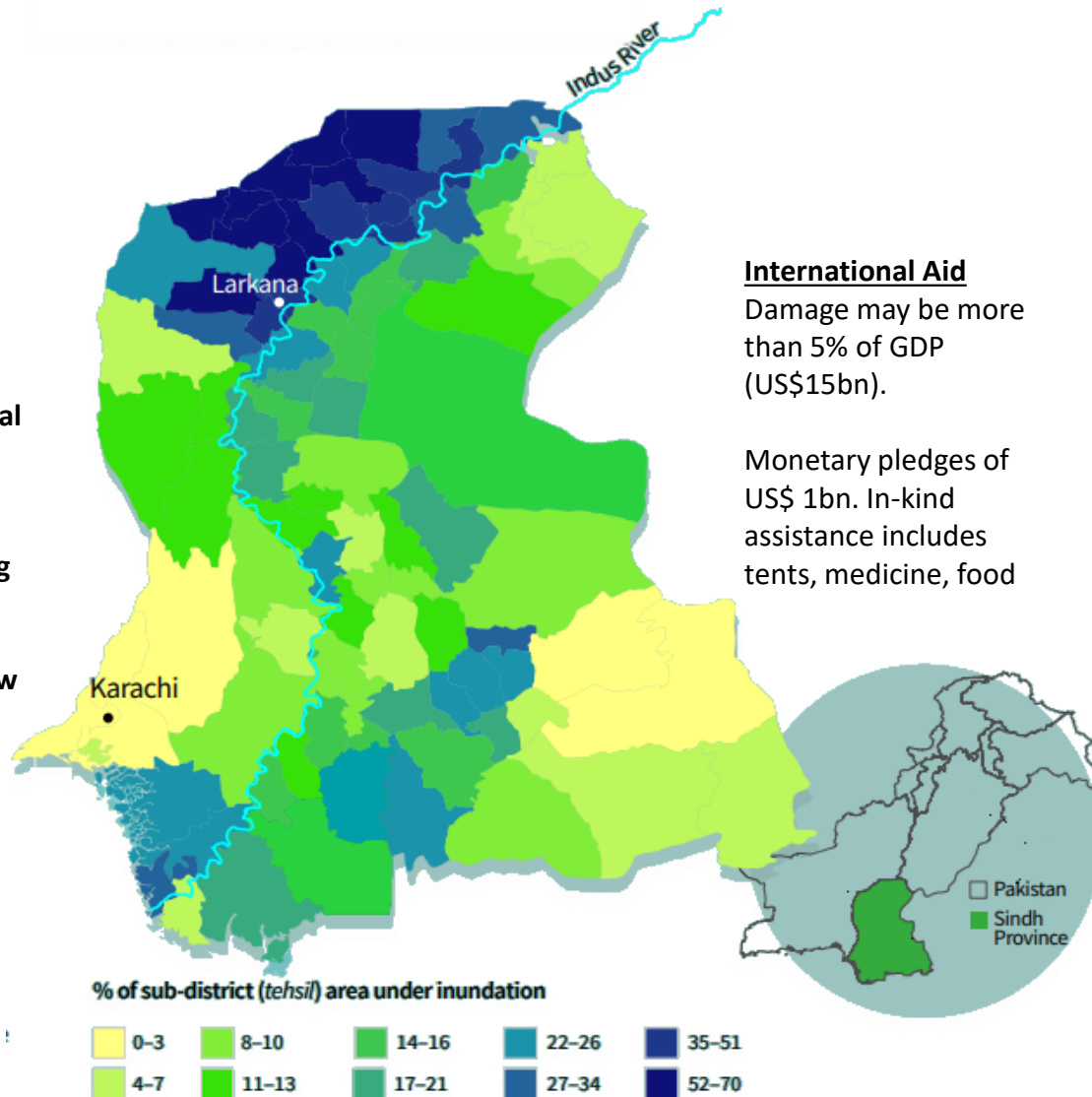
Within the next 1yr, Pakistan should have a government with a fresh 5yr mandate. There is a risk that the political environment remains as polarized as it is now, but it should not get worse.

FY22 Floods - A human tragedy

**2022 monsoons bring
5x usual rain**

**30mn+ people
displaced (c15% of total
population)**

**More than 1,500
deaths. Disease is a big
follow-on risk but
trickle down impact
may be limited to a few
sectors only**



Agriculture

35% of cotton lost =
US\$1.5bn

Rice and Sugarcane are
also affected.

1-2% of Livestock
population lost.

International Aid

Damage may be more
than 5% of GDP
(US\$15bn).

Monetary pledges of
US\$ 1bn. In-kind
assistance includes
tents, medicine, food

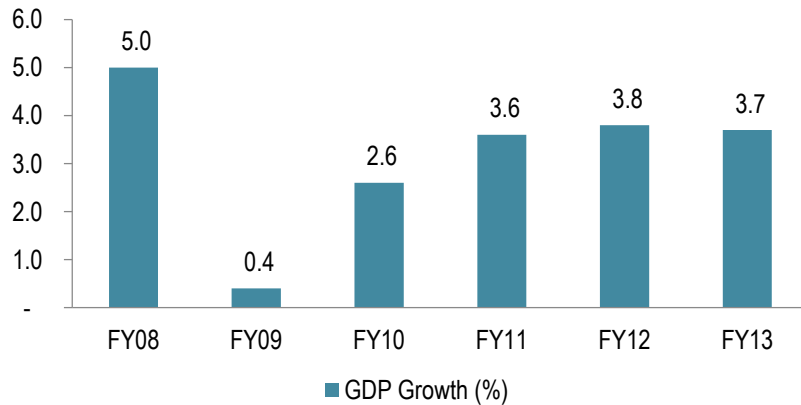
Infrastructure

2mn houses affected
(5% of total)

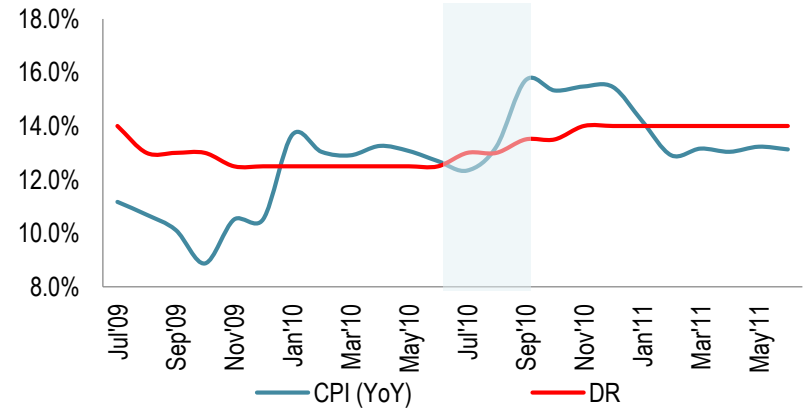
3-5% of Roads and
Bridges are affected

FY11 Floods - Modest impact but thinner buffers now

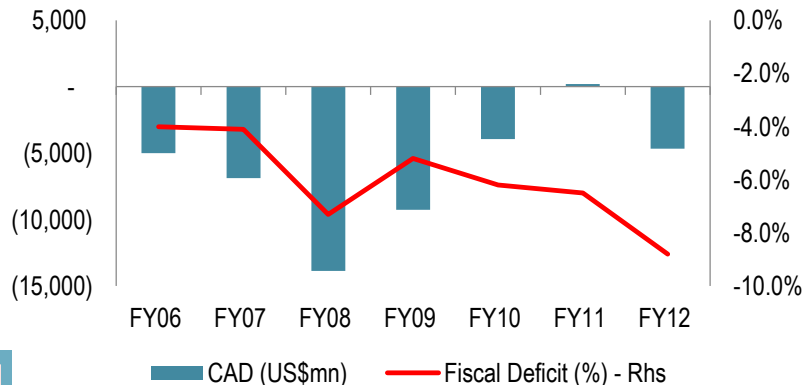
GDP Growth was better than in FY09/10



Inflation spiked leading the SBP to tighten



CA showed a rare surplus, but spending for rehabilitation widened the fiscal deficit



Corporate profitability remained unaffected



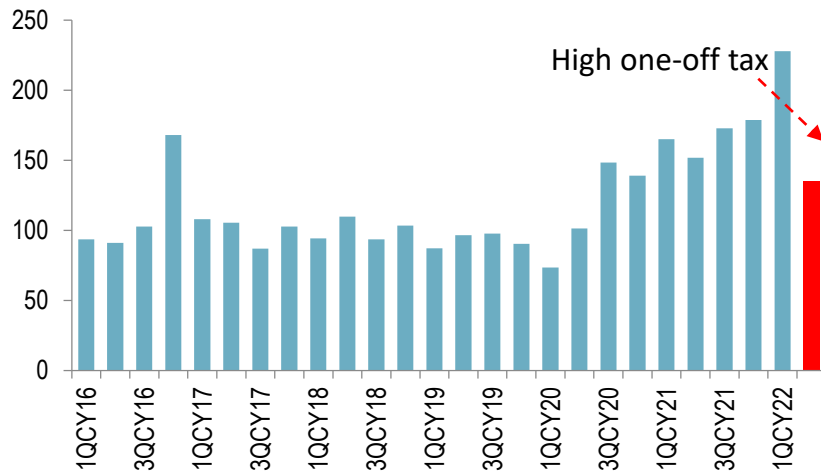
*based on 463 companies



IMS Top Picks

Underlying corporate profits are intact

Corporate profitability trend

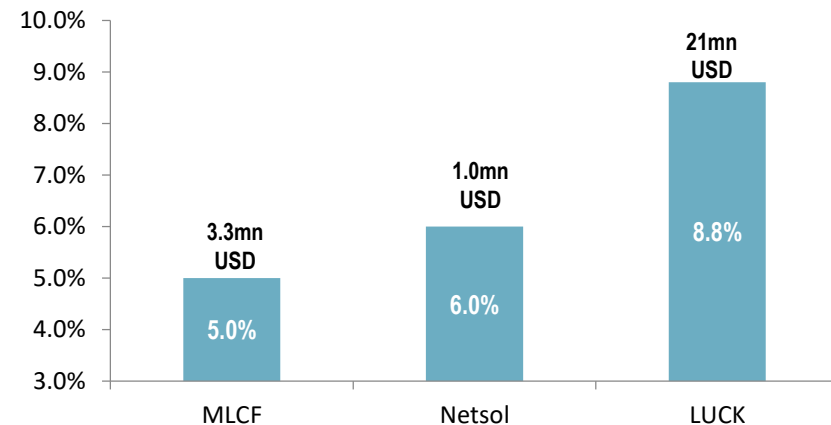


The government imposed high tax on the corporate sector in the last quarter, to make up for the revenue shortfall

Repeat high taxation is a risk for 2023, due to floods, but medium-term profit trajectory should be unaffected

The last 10yr profit CAGR for the KSE100 is 15%pa

Share buybacks have commenced



Companies have initiated formal share buybacks this year, a first for Pakistan.

This may morph into a trend, with many companies trading well below replacement cost

Themes we like

Push on Exports	Exports to GDP has reduced from 12% in FY02 to 8% in FY22.	Systems Interloop
	Expect export-friendly policies to continue, especially for IT (growth potential) and Textile (moves the needle)	
Climate Change	2022 floods show Pakistan suffers greatly from climate change despite contributing less than 1% of global emissions	Lucky Cement Maple Leaf Indus Motors
	Expect more focus on small dams and supportive policies for electric vehicles	
Economic Reforms	Pakistan is committed to economic reforms under the IMF programme	United Bank Ltd
	This may lead to more sustainable economic growth compared to the short-lived cycles in the past	

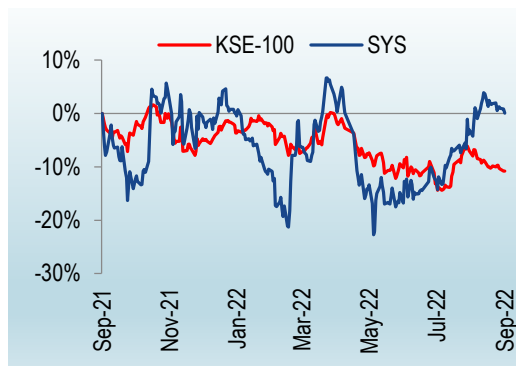
Top Picks

Systems Ltd

SYS was incorporated in 1977 in Lahore. It is 34.33% owned by current employees and 17.13% by retired employees. Its major markets are US, Middle East, Europe and Pakistan.

Price Data

Price (PKR/sh)	387.13
Target Price (PKR/sh)	660
Upside (%)	70.5
Fwd D/Y (%)	1.8
Total Return (%)	72.3
12m Hi-Low (PKR/sh)	412.8/299.0
6m ADTV - mn sh	409
6m AD Val - USDmn	0.74



Key Ratios	2021	2022	2023f	2024f
EPS (PKR)	15.44	24.45	34.03	42.50
EPS Growth (%)	99%	58%	39%	25%
PER (x)	25.1	15.8	11.4	9.1
PBV (x)	8.9	5.7	4.1	3.0
DPS (PKR)	2.5	5.0	7.0	8.5
DY (%)	1%	1%	2%	2%
ROE (%)	43%	44%	42%	38%

- SYS is one of the largest IT exporters in Pakistan (c.80% of revenue from exports). It provides long-term services with 90% of revenue recurring in nature.
- SYS today is much larger than just a year ago. It has expanded into Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the ASEAN region. It is also diversifying its business lines, going by the recent acquisition of NdcTech (Temenos partner).
- The company is expected to stay on its hyper-growth path. We project next 3yr revenue/profit CAGR at 48%/40%, which justifies premium valuations.

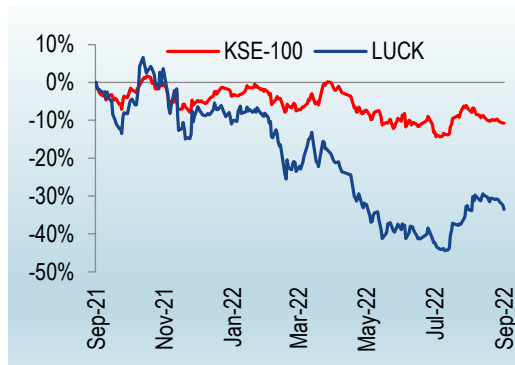
Risks: (i) Difficulty in finding quality HR and high employee turnover, (ii) slowdown in global digitization trends.

Lucky Cement Ltd

LUCK is the largest cement producer in Pakistan with capacity of 12.15mn tpa. It is present in the South and the North. LUCK has evolved into a conglomerate with exposure to the Chemical, Consumer, Auto and Power sectors.

Price Data

Price (PKR/sh)	492.78
Target Price (PKR/sh)	898
Upside (%)	82.2
Fwd D/Y (%)	-
Total Return (%)	82.2
12m Hi-Low (PKR/sh)	790.3/411.9
6m ADTV - mn sh	571
6m AD Val - USDmn	1.37



Key Ratios	2021	2022	2023f	2024f
EPS (PKR)	70.69	91.22	136.24	137.36
EPS Growth (%)	273%	29%	49%	1%
PER (x)	10.3	7.4	3.6	3.6
PBV (x)	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.5
DPS (PKR)	-	-	-	-
DY (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
ROE (%)	16%	17%	20%	16%

- LUCK is the most cost-efficient cement producer in the industry, largely due to WHR and in-house power generation. This makes LUCK the most profitable cement company in Pakistan.
- LUCK has delivered success in the great majority of its new ventures, including overseas cement exposure and, more recently, the chemical and automotive businesses. We expect LUCK to post 3yr Revenue/profit CAGR of 19%/21%.
- The one-shot exposure to Pakistan that LUCK offers is excellent. A lot of LUCKs businesses are at cyclical troughs and should do very well over the medium to longer term. This includes core cement operations, which should benefit from the potential push to build small dams to protect against flooding going forward.

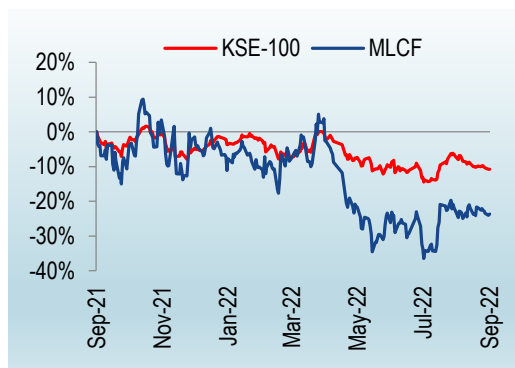
Risks: (i) Circular debt issue for the power business, (ii) sticky coal prices, and (iii) slower-than-expected demand

Maple Leaf Cement Factory Ltd

MLCF is the fourth largest player in North with the total capacity of 5.7mn tons. This is the single largest cement unit operating in Pakistan. MLCF has announced new expansion which is expected to come online in 1QFY23.

Price Data

Price (PKR/sh)	27.91
Target Price (PKR/sh)	47
Upside (%)	68.4
Fwd D/Y (%)	-
Total Return (%)	68.4
12m Hi-Low (PKR/sh)	40.0/23.2
6m ADTV - mn sh	4,390
6m AD Val - USDmn	0.66



Key Ratios	2021	2022	2023f	2024f
EPS (PKR)	3.57	5.37	3.34	5.12
EPS Growth (%)	-179%	51%	-38%	53%
PER (x)	7.8	5.2	8.4	5.5
PBV (x)	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
DPS (PKR)	-	-	-	-
DY (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
ROE (%)	11%	15%	8%	11%

- MLCF is a pure cement play, benefitting from lower production cost compared to peers, as well as access to cheaper financing. As the construction cycle picks up going forward, including from flood-related reconstruction, MLCF should be a key beneficiary.
- MLCF has obtained both SBP TERF and LTFF facilities, availed during Covid. This has helped to finance more than 50% of the new expansion at subsidized rates. As a result, it is less exposed to the higher interest rates.
- About 80% of power requirement is met through its internal generation – which makes MLCF a lower-cost cement producer compared with producers which rely more on grid or FO.

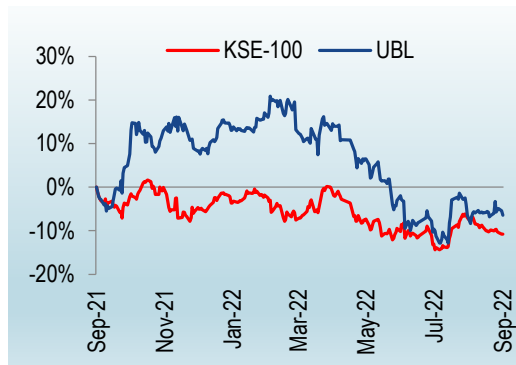
Risks: (i) Prolonged slowdown in construction activity, (ii) pricing pressures in the industry

United Bank Ltd

UBL is the 3rd largest bank in Pakistan by deposits. Its business is concentrated in Pakistan but it has sizeable presence in the GCC also. The Bank is part of the Bestway Group.

Price Data

Price (PKR/sh)	115.99
Target Price (PKR/sh)	160
Upside (%)	37.9
Fwd D/Y (%)	19.0
Total Return (%)	56.9
12m Hi-Low (PKR/sh)	149.8/108.0
6m ADTV - mn sh	955
6m AD Val - USDmn	0.60



Key Ratios	2021	2022	2023f	2024f
EPS (PKR)	24.84	25.45	37.99	38.74
EPS Growth (%)	45%	2%	49%	2%
PER (x)	4.7	4.6	3.1	3.0
PBV (x)	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5
DPS (PKR)	18.0	19.0	22.0	22.0
DY (%)	16%	16%	19%	19%
ROE (%)	14%	14%	21%	19%

- Legacy asset quality issues in the GCC are over while domestic asset quality remains very strong. The overseas business is profitable for the first time since 2016.
- Assets are better positioned for the higher interest rate environment, which will push swift margin expansion in 2H22 and into 2023. Over the longer-term, UBL has significant room to improve cost efficiency, by reducing its branch network as its digital offerings gain traction.
- With CAR of more than 17%, UBL's capital buffer is the strongest in our coverage. This should help sustain a 60% cash payout ratio. On CY23f, this means a dividend yield of about 20%.

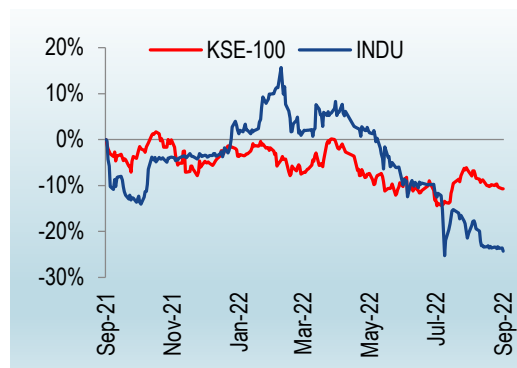
Risks: (i) Greater-than-expected NPLs, (ii) slowdown in fee income, (iii) failure to retain control over costs

Indus Motor Company Ltd

Indus Motors Limited is a JV between the House of Habib and Toyota Motor Corporation Japan for assembling, manufacturing and marketing of Toyota vehicles in Pakistan since July 1990.

Price Data

Price (PKR/sh)	964.11
Target Price (PKR/sh)	1,339
Upside (%)	38.9
Fwd D/Y (%)	8.4
Total Return (%)	47.3
12m Hi-Low (PKR/sh)	1,473.9/951.4
6m ADTV - mn sh	27
6m AD Val - USDmn	0.15



Key Ratios	2021	2022	2023f	2024f
EPS (PKR)	163.21	201.04	174.32	206.20
EPS Growth (%)	152%	23%	-13%	18%
PER (x)	5.9	4.8	5.5	4.7
PBV (x)	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1
DPS (PKR)	103.5	93.8	81.0	103.0
DY (%)	11%	10%	8%	11%
ROE (%)	29%	31%	23%	24%

- The auto sector is in a cyclical downturn, with higher interest rates affecting auto finance and the PKR weakness eating into margins. Floods will hurt agriculture income this year – INDU derives c 60% of its sales from rural areas.
- Through the cycle however, INDU has the potential to deliver stellar returns. It is the only auto company that will assemble hybrid electric vehicles. Given the higher fuel prices with the government not giving subsidies anymore, the HEV segment may benefit from a strong demand shift.
- INDU has very strong brand loyalty which grants it better pricing power compared to peers. It also offers strong cash payouts. Sharp stock price correction has opened up valuations to attractive levels.

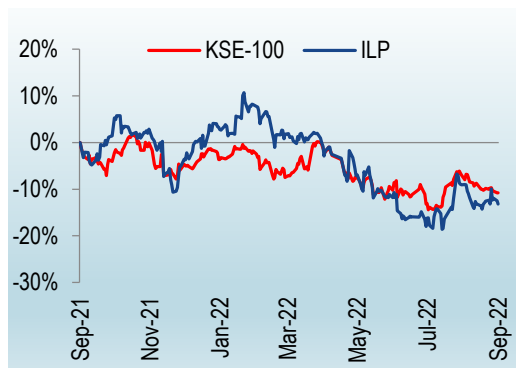
Risks: (i) Significant PKR depreciation, (ii) higher-for-longer interest rates, (iii) prolonged reduction in purchasing power

Interloop Ltd

Interloop is one of the largest hosiery manufacturers in the world, with a global market share of 3-4%. ILP operates in the hosiery, spinning, denim and apparels segments, with the capacity to produce c.700mn pairs of socks p.a. In FY22, ILP was one of the largest exporters in Pakistan with exports of c.US\$400mn

Price Data

Price (PKR/sh)	63.00
Target Price (PKR/sh)	95
Upside (%)	50.8
Fwd D/Y (%)	6.3
Total Return (%)	57.1
12m Hi-Low (PKR/sh)	80.3/59.1
6m ADTV - mn sh	322
6m AD Val - USDmn	0.10



Key Ratios

	2021	2022	2023f	2024f
EPS (PKR)	7.00	13.76	10.38	11.24
EPS Growth (%)	250%	96%	-25%	8%
PER (x)	9.0	4.6	6.1	5.6
PBV (x)	2.8	2.1	1.7	1.4
DPS (PKR)	2.4	4.3	4.0	4.0
DY (%)	4%	7%	6%	6%
ROE (%)	33%	52%	31%	28%

- Imported cotton, to make up for the crops lost during the floods, may eat into textile sector margins in the near-term, but ILP is relatively shielded due to its cotton inventory. Global demand is also expected to soften, but ILP has an orders backlog into the next year.
- ILP has excellent hosiery operations (socks) and has announced a series of expansions slated until FY26 with a total outlay of c.US\$300mn. This will entail capacity enhancements in all segments, while adding new product lines in Apparel & Active wear segments and a new Hosiery plant.
- Forward P/E stands at 6.1x, but this contracts sharply to 3.9x when majority of expansion projects come online. ILP is a best-in-class textile name, with good disclosures and corporate governance.

Risks: (i) Higher energy prices, (ii) discontinuation of GSP+ status, and (iii) prolonged global demand slowdown.

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Ratings Guide*	Criteria
Buy	Total return expectation of $\geq 15\%$ or expected to outperform the KSE-100 index
Neutral	Total return expectation of $> -5\%$ or expected to match the return of KSE-100 index
Sell	Expected downside of more than 5% or expected to underperform the KSE-100 index

*Based on 12 month horizon unless stated otherwise in the report.

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