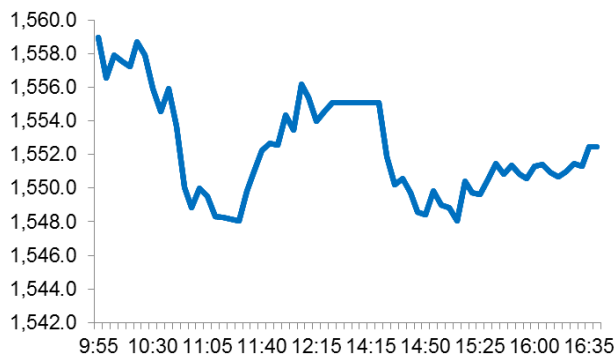


## Thailand Morning Cuppa

### Top Story & Bulletin

STOCK/SECTOR	NEWS	COMMENT	RATING
Construction CH Karnchang (CK TB)	<p>Industry Ministry Permanent Secretary Sittikorn Direksoonthorn said Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha has ordered his ministry – together with the Commerce Ministry – to handle the issue of rising steel prices during the 27 Apr Cabinet meeting. This was to mitigate the production costs pushed by steel prices, which will affect the major and downstream industries. Direksoonthorn said both ministries are meeting with all relevant parties, including steel producers and consumers, to seek urgent solutions to this matter.</p> <p>There is a joint conclusion that the construction sector will propose to work with government agencies and review the “K” factor, ie the index used to measure the change in actual steel costs for government projects in terms of price investigation and K configuration – this is to better reflect market prices, and provide business matching between manufacturers and steel users so that they can better plan their usage and production together.</p> <p>There should be cooperation among steel manufacturers and suppliers to fix the price and distribute steel products at the price corresponding to actual costs. <i>(Infoquest)</i></p>	<p>One of key risks for the domestic construction sector right now is the surge in steel prices – now at historical highs of almost THB30.00 per kg – that will threaten the profit margins of construction works on hand, especially newly awarded projects. There was a recent announcement from Tata Steel Thailand (TSTH TB, NOT RATED) – the country’s largest producer of steel products for the construction industry – that it will focus on a sales plan that leans more towards the domestic market, given that there are many public construction projects ahead nationwide. This may help mitigate the supply shock in Thailand after China’s post-COVID-19 demand surge affected steel imports from the East Asian nation.</p> <p>In addition, while the Government will adjust the K factor to reflect the actual cost for public construction works, we expect this to help mitigate the cost impacts on construction companies – but will not offset the overall impact. All construction bidders have already factored in the abnormally high steel prices when they make their proposals to project owners. However, trouble will remain with construction players with high orderbooks on hand, in our view.</p> <p>Therefore, we expect Sino-Thai Engineering &amp; Construction (STEC TB, BUY, TP: THB16.00) to be at a high risk in this regard. CH Karnchang (CK) – our sector Top Pick, with its historically low orderbook on hand – will be much less affected. We maintain our call and TP on this counter.</p>	<p>Sector: OVERWEIGHT</p> <p>Stock: CK: BUY, TP: THB20.30</p>

**Chart 1: SET intra-day graph**


SET	2019	2020	2021F	2022F
PE (x)	18.02	25.96	18.93	16.41
P/BV (x)	1.71	1.61	1.72	1.64
Yield (%)	3.28	3.26	2.67	2.94

SET Value by investor Type: Daily	Buy	Sell	Net
	(THBm)	(THBm)	(THBm)
Institution	4,866.33	5,679.82	-813.50
Proprietary	7,214.38	7,094.49	119.89
Foreign	32,300.09	34,314.77	-2,014.68
Retail	36,551.28	33,842.99	2,708.29

SET Value by investor Type	MTD	YTD
	(THBm)	(THBm)
Institution	-7,835.58	-44,834.17
Proprietary	-3,326.99	152.07
Foreign	-27,422.10	-60,450.65
Retail	38,584.68	105,132.73

SET50 Index Future	Long	Short	Net	MTD	YTD
	Institution	31,160	31,514	-354	13,113
Foreign	50,683	53,174	-2,491	8,951	-12,866
Local	87,808	84,963	2,845	-22,064	-35,991

Foreign Fund Flows (USDm)				MTD	YTD	YoY
	Thailand	-64.2	-260.5	-877.2	-1971.1	2716.4

Note: \*As at 21 May 2021 closing

**Table 1: Key market indices (24 May 2021)**

	Index	Chg	Chg (%)	YTD (%)
<b>Thailand (SET)</b>	1552.44	-2.10	-0.14%	7.1%
<b>Thailand (SET50)</b>	937.53	-0.78	-0.08%	3.0%
<b>Thailand (SET100)</b>	2133.16	-2.47	-0.12%	4.7%
<b>USA (Dow Jones)</b>	34207.84	123.69	0.36%	11.8%
<b>USA (S&amp;P500)</b>	4155.86	-3.26	-0.08%	10.6%
<b>USA (Nasdaq)</b>	13470.99	-64.75	-0.48%	4.5%
<b>UK (FTSE)</b>	7018.05	-1.74	-0.02%	8.6%
<b>Singapore (FSSTI)</b>	3117.89	8.08	0.26%	9.6%
<b>Hong Kong (Hang Seng)</b>	28458.44	8.15	0.03%	4.5%
<b>Japan (Nikkei)</b>	28317.83	51.30	0.18%	3.2%
<b>Malaysia (KLCI)</b>	1562.17	-13.15	-0.83%	-4.0%
<b>China (SHANGHAI SE)</b>	3486.56	-20.39	-0.58%	0.4%
<b>Indonesia (JCI)</b>	5773.12	-24.48	-0.42%	-3.4%

**Foreign Exchange Rates / Oil Market**

USD	Closed	Chg	Chg (%)
Baht (Onshore)	31.37	-0.02	0.06
Yen	108.90	-0.06	0.06
Euro	1.22	0.00	0.03

Oil Price (USD/barrel)			
Brent	66.07	-0.31	-0.47
Nymex-Crude Light	63.72	0.14	0.22

Note: \*As at 21 May 2021 closing

**Top BUYs**

	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts
<b>Airports of Thailand (AOT TB)</b>	74.00	21.81.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2QFY21F's performance may be the weakest of the year, before gradually improving with smaller losses throughout 2HFY21, while an earnings turnaround in FY22 may also support AOT's long-term outlook.</li> <li>• Local aviation sees favourable recovery: its domestic recovery may approach pre-pandemic levels by FY23, a year ahead of the international side.</li> <li>• The Government's latest approval for Phase 3 of the "We Travel Together" local tourism stimulus campaign, from May to August, may be a catalyst and boost flight numbers.</li> <li>• As the first-tier tourism player, AOT may strongly underpin the revival of the tourism industry, while the weakening short-term sentiment and earnings present investors with an opportunity to BUY.</li> </ul>
<b>Bangkok Bank (BBL TB)</b>	153.00	32.47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of Thailand's large banks which operates its business conservatively but surely.</li> <li>• BBL has less NPL risks than peers due to its high exposure to corporate customers (c.40% of total loans) which are robust than other groups. This is also the reason why the bank has lowest proportion of customers under debt relief measures among peers.</li> <li>• BBL's strong capital ratio and manageable NPL level are enable it to ready to pay normal dividend without any concerns except the BoT's regulations.</li> <li>• FY21 earnings is expected to recover strongly YoY, underpinned by a decrease in provisions, improved cost structure, continued loan growth (mainly from corporate and international loans), and a rebound in fee incomes.</li> <li>• Undemanding valuation with current P/BV at 0.5x.</li> </ul>
<b>Central Pattana (CPN TB)</b>	61.00	25.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving sentiment for its retail mall operations, based on indirect benefits from the year-end tax rebate for shopping campaigns</li> <li>• Rental rate discounts may marginally improve, with no material impact from temporary political rallies, on store traffic</li> <li>• Efficient cost control measures have lowered its variable and fixed costs, mainly utility and marketing expenses, while profit margins are likely on the uptrend on the back of reviving retail mall operations</li> <li>• Residential business sees stronger sales momentum in 4Q20 – the industry's high season – based on more high-rise unit transfers, along with low-rise projects in Bangkok and upcountry</li> </ul>
<b>Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF TB)</b>	38.00	39.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The uptrend of its core business should be prolonged, given the tighter supply conditions due to the African Swine Fever outbreak in Asia, with relatively low feed costs that remain in place – although Charoen Pokphand Foods should benefit from lower policy rates and a weakening THB</li> <li>• Upside from the acquisition of Tesco Thailand and Tesco Malaysia. While we expect the company to enhance its fresh products distribution channel by tapping into the supermarket network, we think CPF could also ramp up its food services in Tesco's retail space, going forward</li> <li>• Other positive synergies include cost savings on logistics network sharing, inventory turnover, and cross-selling between retail trading formats</li> </ul>
<b>CP All (CPALL TB)</b>	75.00	29.87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V-shaped earnings recovery, with continued opening of new stores, while Siam Makro's operations remain solid</li> <li>• As it has the most extensive store network, CPALL may strongly benefit the new normal in terms of facilitating delivery of products and services through its developing omni-channel platform</li> <li>• Still the best-in-class retailer with intact new store opening plan. Expect full-year earnings returning to pre-pandemic levels in 2021</li> <li>• To finance the acquisition of Tesco Lotus with a combination of debt and perpetual debentures to balance its leverage</li> </ul>
<b>Home Product Center (HMPRO TB)</b>	17.00	25.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expecting normalising earnings in FY21 – to be supported by full-year operations of all stores and retail malls vs a temporary closure from late March to mid-May, with profit margins approaching pre-pandemic levels</li> <li>• HMPRO's investment in Vietnam may strongly benefit growing urbanisation and a potential rise in the construction sector</li> <li>• Quarterly earnings momentum will continue its upward trajectory in 1Q21</li> <li>• Rapid improvement in sustainability development may allow the stock to continue trading at a premium</li> </ul>

**Top BUYs**

	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts
<b>Krung Thai Bank (KTB TB)</b>	14.30	32.41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The laggard of the sector with undemanding valuation plus an earnings recovery.</li> <li>Outstanding loan proportion from corporate and Gov.&amp;SoEs customers (43% of total loans).</li> <li>Public investment via Gov.'s disbursement scheme should help to drawdown loans from KTB.</li> <li>FY21F earnings is set to rebound like other banks, mainly on lower set of provisions, improved fee incomes, while its NII is likely to maintain following a gradual rise in loan offsetting lower NIM.</li> <li>The valuation is compelling with current P/BV at 0.4x.</li> </ul>
<b>Muangthai Capital (MTC TB)</b>	73.00	26.41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the leaders in microfinance market which provides a variety of loan products.</li> <li>Ample opportunities to grow through the ocean of untapped customers who cannot reach credits from traditional banks. Management's extensive experiences, aggressive new branch expansion, well-known brand will be the keys to drive robust earnings over other players.</li> <li>FY21-23 earnings is expected to grow CAGR of 20%, driven by a growth in loan, lower CIR, sustained NIM, and controlled asset quality.</li> <li>The continued economic recovery should gradually help to improve loan demand, credit cost, and asset quality.</li> <li>TIDLOR's IPO plan in early-May 21 would be the short-term catalyst to drive MTC's share price.</li> </ul>
<b>PTT (PTT TB)</b>	51.50	33.77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We expect strong earnings rebound in 2021 in tandem with economic recovery, on the back of gradual global vaccination rollout.</li> <li>E&amp;P arm will benefit from higher oil prices while the refineries and petrochemical arms will see pick-up in refined product spreads and wider petrochemical spreads.</li> <li>PTT is targeting to increase its renewable energy capacity to 3GW by 2025, with the primary focus on solar and wind in countries such as China, Vietnam, Taiwan and India.</li> </ul>
<b>Siam Cement (SCC TB)</b>	500.00	13.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Petrochemicals is currently in an upcycle. HDPE-naphtha spread in 1Q21 should remain as high as levels recorded in 4Q20, while the polypropylene-naphtha spread reached another high in 1Q21. SCC's polyolefin sales volumes returned to normal levels after the turnaround of the Map Ta Phut olefin cracker was completed in 4Q20.</li> <li>The improvement in cement &amp; building materials business should be noticeable in 1Q21, with cement demand growing 1-2% in Thailand. This would be due to stronger demand from the residential property sector in provincial areas, and continuously solid demand stemming from government infrastructure projects.</li> <li>FY21 will start out with strong earnings growth in 1Q21, while the petrochemical division may be driven by higher production volume after de-bottlenecking the Map Ta Phut olefin cracker finishing 2Q21. For 2H21, we expect a brighter outlook for the cement &amp; building materials business especially in ASEAN countries, when construction activities resume to normal.</li> </ul>

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