

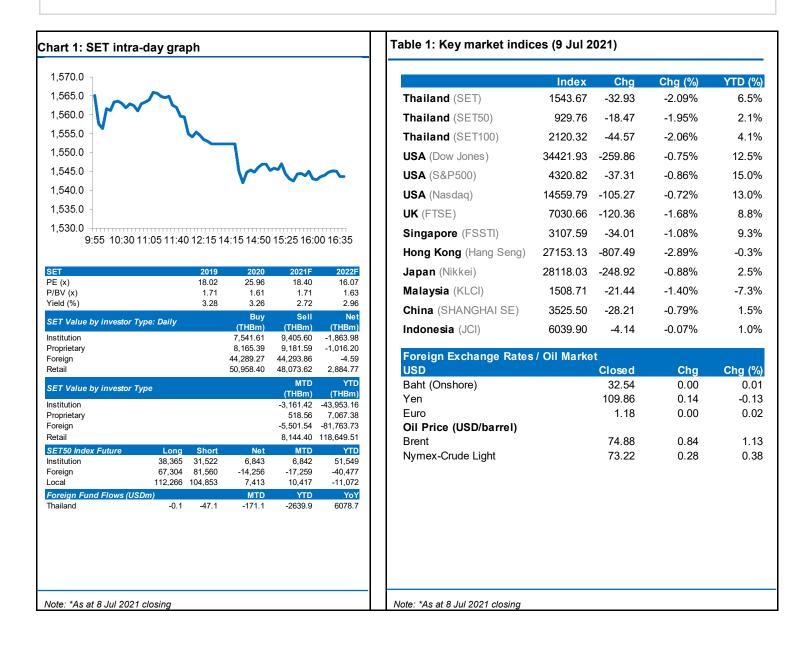
# **Top Story**

# Consumer (NEUTRAL)

Brace For Stricter Pandemic Control Measures Sector News Flash

NEUTRAL. The Government's proposed changes to shopping hours and planned movement restrictions, to address the severe COVID-19 situation, may be negative to discretionary retailers and shopping malls in 3Q21F – leading to further earnings downside in 2021F. We expect a recovery from 4Q21F. Prefer CP All for long-term investment, and Home Product Center on strong profit growth this year. Mega Lifesciences has catalysts ahead on supplement demand and the potential launch of its hemp-based products Analyst: Vatcharut Vacharawongsith +66 2088 9736

Today's Report: <u>Consumer : Brace For Stricter Pandemic Control Measures</u> (9 Jul 2021) Previous Report: Consumer : New Co-Pay Scheme Well-Registered (15 Jun 2021)







# Thailand Daily 9 July 2021

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TOP BUTS					
	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts		
Airports of Thailand (AOT TB)	73.50	21.49	<ul> <li>3QFY21 (Sep) is likely the weakest quarter, as domestic aviation has led AOT's performance and the severe COVID-19 third wave may dampen local tourism activities. Cost optimisation efforts have been implemented effectively since 3QFY20, but variable expenses rose in tandem with a recovery in aeronautical activities post lockdown</li> <li>Regarding the Government's border re-opening scheme from Jul 2021 onwards, we expect some positive sentiment on the Phuket Sandbox Model towards AOT, as Phuket International Airport is its third-largest property</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>		
Home Product Center (HMPRO TB)	17.00	19.72	<ul> <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>		
Kasikornbank (KBANK TB)	160.00	43.50	<ul> <li>One of opening theme plays, given the highest exposure to the small &amp; medium enterprise or SME portion among the banks we cover or TH Banks</li> <li>Investors should look forward to an eventual recovery, as the recovery in the short term is likely to be uneven and take time before reaching pre-COVID-19 levels</li> <li>The bank trends to disrupt itself with new technologies. We believe this strategy will help the bank to improve profitability and quality in the long run</li> <li>FY21F earnings outlook is forecasted to rebound 8.5% in line with sector earnings. This is due to lower provisions and a rebound in net fees income</li> <li>Our valuation is conservative and its share price is trading below -1SD from the historical mean, which is compelling</li> </ul>		
Mega Lifesciences (MEGA TB)	43.00	14.67	<ul> <li>Rising health consciousness post-COVID-19 and an aging society may be tailwinds for demand on wellness products. These factors may strongly support MEGA's longer-term outlook based on its key strategies: New product launches in consumer and pharmaceutical healthcare, penetration into new markets, and capturing vast growth opportunities at existing underpenetrated destinations</li> <li>Eyeing to launch its hemp-based products (tablets and liquid), with its strength in owned R&amp;D processes. It is waiting for the Government's finalised regulations, likely by 2H21</li> <li>Operations in Myanmar (c.40% of revenue) may see modest impact from the political unrest. Its Maxxcare distribution business remains operational</li> <li>To continue to deliver YoY profit growth in 2Q21 despite being the weakest quarter, driven by its branded business. Possible recovery in Thailand's local activities and a seasonality effect may improve MEGA's 2H21F earnings momentum vs 1H21F</li> </ul>		
PTT Exploration & Production (PTTEP TB)	131.00	14.41	<ul> <li>We like PTTEP as a good proxy to stronger commodity prices</li> <li>2Q21 earnings is expected to register stronger results on the back of stronger sales volume and crude prices</li> </ul>		
PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC TB)	76.00	30.47	<ul> <li>Bumper 1H21 earnings expected from robust petrochemical product spreads to translate into a strong FY21F rebound in YoY performance</li> <li>Current uptrend in oil prices also expected to see PTTGC regain its gas-based crackers' relative cost advantage over industry peers operating naphtha-based crackers</li> </ul>		
Siam Cement (SCC TB)	500.00	19.05	<ul> <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>		
Tisco Financial (TISCO TB)	111.00	24.02	<ul> <li>Superior asset quality to peers and strong capital base – highest among TH Banks – made TISCO deserve to trade at premium valuation.</li> <li>Its c.7% dividend yield is compelling and relatively highest among TH banks, with full-year payment basis.</li> <li>We believe TISCO's conservative strategy amidst the pandemic will be proper, allowing the bank to survive post COVID-19</li> <li>FY21 earnings is expected to rebound 7%YoY mainly on lower provisions and a rebound in net fees income, despite moderated NII and a slight increase in overheads</li> </ul>		





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 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

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