

Thailand Morning Cuppa

Top Story

Market Strategy

Forging a Path Towards Normalcy

Thailand Strategy

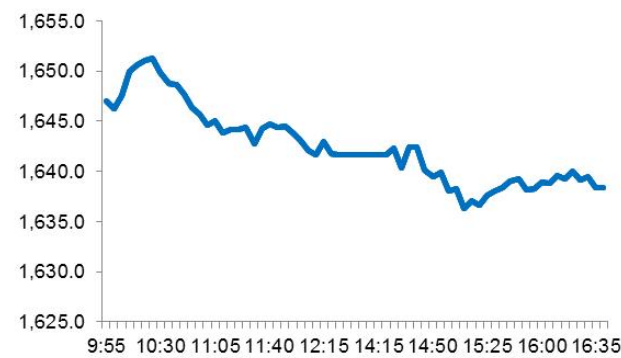
Living with COVID-19. The number of daily new COVID-19 cases in Thailand has stabilised to c.10,000 (with ~100 fatalities), while the number of recovered and discharged patients has picked up. This has lessened the pressure on the public health system (currently with around 3,324 serious cases). As such, Thailand will soon fully relax social distancing restrictions on all activities, from schools (from 1 Nov onwards) to nightlife venues (from 1 Dec onwards). Thailand will also soon welcome fully vaccinated visitors – without necessitating quarantines – from at least 10 low-risk countries. Meanwhile, about 118m cumulative vaccine doses are expected to be administered by the year-end (first dose: 85%, second dose: 74%, third dose: 10%). We believe almost the entire population will have had at least the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines by 2Q22. As such, reopening the economy would entail a trade-off with the risk of a resurgence of new infections – but we believe the situation ahead should be more manageable.

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[Today's Report: Market Strategy : Forging a Path Towards Normalcy \(18 Oct 2021\)](#)

[Previous Report: Market Strategy : Vaccine – The Race To Reopen The Economy \(30 Jun 2021\)](#)

Chart 1: SET intra-day graph



SET	2019	2020	2021F	2022F
PE (x)	18.02	25.96	18.96	16.67
P/BV (x)	1.71	1.61	1.82	1.73
Yield (%)	3.28	3.26	2.52	2.78

SET Value by investor Type: Daily	Buy		Sell	Net
	(THBm)		(THBm)	(THBm)
Institution	5,121.32		7,947.61	-2,826.29
Proprietary	8,114.14		7,988.73	125.40
Foreign	36,833.48		33,433.19	3,400.29
Retail	34,682.73		35,382.12	-699.40

SET Value by investor Type	MTD		YTD	
	(THBm)		(THBm)	
Institution	-7,778.47		-48,720.56	
Proprietary	4,262.92		16,990.38	
Foreign	13,970.16		-62,735.18	
Retail	-10,454.61		94,465.33	

SET50 Index Future	Long	Short	Net	MTD	YTD
Institution	28,591	28,139	452	-4,281	37,733
Foreign	48,389	46,216	2,173	29,611	12,625
Local	67,906	70,531	-2,625	-25,330	-50,358

Foreign Fund Flows (USDm)	MTD		YTD		YoY
Thailand	102.5	283.5	418.3	-2058.9	9035.0

Table 1: Key market indices (18 Oct 2021)

	Index	Chg	Chg (%)	YTD (%)
Thailand (SET)	1638.34	-2.63	-0.16%	13.0%
Thailand (SET50)	987.44	0.16	0.02%	8.5%
Thailand (SET100)	2245.90	-0.89	-0.04%	10.3%
USA (Dow Jones)	35294.76	382.20	1.09%	15.3%
USA (S&P500)	4471.37	33.11	0.75%	19.0%
USA (Nasdaq)	14897.34	73.91	0.50%	15.6%
UK (FTSE)	7234.03	26.32	0.37%	12.0%
Singapore (FSSTI)	3173.91	9.05	0.29%	11.6%
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	25330.96	368.37	1.48%	-7.0%
Japan (Nikkei)	29011.68	205.23	0.71%	5.7%
Malaysia (KLCI)	1598.28	5.76	0.36%	-1.8%
China (SHANGHAI SE)	3572.37	14.09	0.40%	2.9%
Indonesia (JCI)	6633.34	7.22	0.11%	10.9%

Foreign Exchange Rates / Oil Market

USD	Closed	Chg	Chg (%)
Baht (Onshore)	33.44	0.01	-0.02
Yen	114.22	0.00	0.00
Euro	1.16	0.00	-0.09
Oil Price (USD/barrel)			
Brent	84.87	0.68	0.81
Nymex-Crude Light	83.03	0.75	0.91

Note: *As at 15 Oct 2021 closing

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Top BUYs

	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts
Airports of Thailand (AOT TB)	73.50	8.89	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 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
Home Product Center (HMPRO TB)	18.00	26.76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 HMPRO's investment in Vietnam may strongly benefit growing urbanisation and a potential rise in the construction sector Quarterly earnings momentum will continue its upward trajectory in 1Q21 Rapid improvement in sustainability development may allow the stock to continue trading at a premium
Kasikornbank (KBANK TB)	150.00	5.26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of opening theme plays, given the highest exposure to the small & medium enterprise or SME portion among the banks we cover or TH Banks 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 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 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 Our valuation is conservative and its share price is trading below -1SD from the historical mean, which is compelling
PTT Exploration & Production (PTTEP TB)	138.00	11.29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We like PTTEP as a good proxy to stronger commodity prices 2Q21 earnings are expected to register stronger results on the back of stronger sales volumes and crude prices
PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC TB)	73.00	12.74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bumper 1H21 earnings expected from robust petrochemical product spreads to translate into a strong FY21F rebound in YoY performance 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
Siam Cement (SCC TB)	517.00	29.57	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 The improvement in cement & 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 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 & building materials business especially in ASEAN, when construction activities resume to normal
Tisco Financial (TISCO TB)	111.50	19.57	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superior asset quality to peers and strong capital base – highest among TH Banks – made TISCO deserve to trade at premium valuation. Its c.7% dividend yield is compelling and relatively highest among TH Banks, with full-year payment basis. We believe TISCO's conservative strategy amidst the pandemic will be proper, allowing the bank to survive post COVID-19 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

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