Taurus Securities Limited

A Subsidiary of National Bank of Pakistan



Monthly Market Perspectives

September 2024 – PSX down 3.3%MoM – (+2,626 points)

- IMF Executive Board approves 37-month USD 7Bn Extended Fund Facility (EFF).
- Economic recovery remains slow despite falling inflation and monetary easing.
- Power sector in limelight as the Government tries to renegotiate capacity payments.
- KSE-100 index FY24 earnings up 20%YoY, as the results season approaches closure.

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KSE-100 index down 3.3%MoM in September 2024 (-2,626 points)

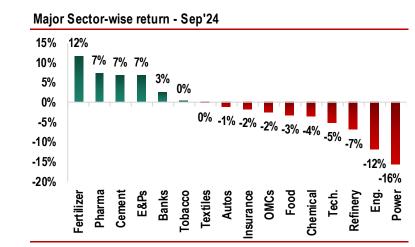
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Monthly Index Performance:

- KSE-100 index closed at 81,114 as of Sep'24, down 3.3%MoM (-2,626 points). Net FIPI inflow clocked-in USD 54.8Mn during Sep'24.
- Average value traded in Sep'24: PKR 16.1Bn down 14% MoM.
- Average volume traded in Sep'24: 526.5Mn shares down 2%MoM.

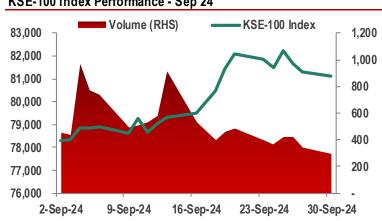
Key triggers for the market during Sep'24

- IMF Executive Board approves 37-month USD 7Bn Extended Fund Facility.
- SBP-MPC cuts the benchmark policy rate by 200bps to 17.50%.
- Yields on Government securities, and the KIBOR fell reflecting expectations of further rate cuts as inflation continues to tread downwards. Aug'24 NCPI stood at 9.6% YoY. Sep'24 NCPI is expected to arrive at 7.8% YoY.
- MS and HSD prices cut by 5% and 6%, respectively during Sep'24.
- Aug'24 CA posted USD 75Mn surplus, FY25TD CAD down 81%YoY. Remittances stood at ~USD 2.9Bn, up 40%YoY. Trade Deficit was recorded at USD 2.2Bn, up 23%YoY. PKR hovered ~PKR 279/USD level, with the SBP's net FX reserves closing at ~USD 9.5Bn according to the latest data available.
- News sources reported intense negotiations between the Government and certain IPP owners in relation to curbing capacity payments, going forward.
- KSE-100 index PAT was up 20%YoY (FY24) as the results season came to end.
- Political uncertainty hiked amid efforts to pass constitutional amendments.



Source: PSX & TSL Research

KSE-100 Index Performance - Sep'24



Source: PSX,TSL Research

IMF EFF approval to provide medium-term stability for Pakistan



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IMF Executive Board approves USD 7Bn, 37-month EFF

- IMF Executive Board has finally <u>approved</u> USD 7Bn, 37-month Extended Fund Facility for Pakistan. Accordingly, Pakistan has also <u>received</u> the first tranche of ~USD 1Bn under the new EFF. The approval comes amid no pre-conditions including any condition to introduce a mini-budget etc.
- The EFF will seek to continue the reform program for Pakistan alongside providing stability to the external sector over the medium-term by enabling Pakistan to tap multiple sources of external finance imperative for sustainable economic growth.
- The reforms would widely focus on broadening the tax base to include taxing the retailers/traders, real-estate and agriculture in order to create more fiscal space. Further, there will be continued focus on reforming the SOEs, allowing only targeted subsidies and resolution of circular debt, going forward.
- The IMF forecasts Pakistan's GDP growth at 3.2% and headline inflation at 9.5% for FY25. A primary surplus of 2% of GDP and fiscal deficit at ~6% of GDP. CAD has been projected at 0.9%. Unemployment rate is projected to drop to 7.5% during FY25.
- To note, Pakistan had <u>received</u> significant assurances from China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, going beyond the commitment to roll-over USD 12Bn in bilateral loans paving the way for the approval of the EFF without any pre-conditions. It is also likely that Pakistan will receive the 2nd tranche before the year-end.

Strengthening external sector to provide macroeconomic stability

- The EFF has significantly strengthened Pakistan's external sector going forward, unlocking access to the necessary funding to meet the external financing requirements in the medium-term, enabling growth of FX reserves and buffers, and supporting the Rupee.
- Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves currently stand at USD 14.9Bn (expected to be ~USD 16Bn after receipt of the 1st tranche), which includes USD 9.5Bn held by the SBP (expected to be ~USD 11Bn after receipt of the 1st tranche), respectively. Additionally, the SBP projects its FX reserves to touch USD 12Bn by Mar'25.
- 2MFY25 CAD is down ~81% over the SPLY, driven by robust remittances which are up 44%YoY during the period, offsetting the impact of ~22%YoY growth in the trade deficit. Meanwhile, the Rupee continues to trade near ~PKR 277-278/USD levels, amid strong external outlook, despite commencement of rate cuts.

Subsiding inflation indicates further monetary easing ahead

■ The SBP-MPC cut the benchmark policy rate by another 200bps in its Sep'24 meeting to 17.50%, citing sharp decline in both headline and core inflation amid delay in utility tariff hikes and favourable global commodity (lower oil prices mainly) and food prices. We expect NCPI in FY25 to average under 8%YoY - leaving ample room for further rate cuts. Lower interest rates are likely to bode well for private sector credit, supporting investments and overall aggregate demand, resulting in GDP growth.

Other developments to keep an eye on...



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Government launches first-ever T-Bills Buyback program

- The first-ever buyback of T-Bills is expected to <u>amount</u> to PKR 500Bn, indicating surplus funds with the Government amid falling domestic borrowing costs due to 450bps CYTD reduction in interest rates, and further easing expected to follow.
- For context, cut-off yields on the 3M T-Bills are down ~422bps CYTD from their peak of ~21.7% in Feb'24 to ~17.5% as of the latest accepted round of T-Bills auction in early Sep'24. Consequently, creating the space to enhance public debt profile.
- Other fiscal initiatives include acceleration of the privatization program, including privatization of PIA. Also, the Government has come up with a <u>new</u> privatization plan which will also include an added option to liquidate loss-making SOEs.

Addressing the menace of rising power tariffs

- Negotiations are <u>underway</u> between the Government and owners of select IPPs in order to revise their respective Power Purchase Agreements, with an aim to reduce capacity payments. For context, the Government <u>paid</u> PKR 979Bn to 33 IPPs during FY24, which includes several plants with zero utilization levels.
- Nevertheless, it is believed that revising PPAs of IPPs is likely to yield only PKR 2/unit reduction in the base tariff as the majority of the chunk pertains to the Government owned GENCOs and CPEC related power plants. Moreover, any drastic or coercive revisions may restrict future foreign investment in Pakistan.

Economy shows signs of improvement despite demand pressures

- According to the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan's economy has shown signs of improvement during 2MFY25. This includes uptick in industrial output as well as key export sectors also experiencing growth – pointing at a positive outlook for exports.
- However, industry sources highlight continued pressure on demand amid squeezed purchasing power of consumers owing to surge in taxation and lower real-wages. This includes mostly cyclical sectors like construction, automobiles etc.
- In addition, fallout of the reform program under the new EFF i.e. efforts to broaden the tax net along with the crackdown on non-filers etc. is expected to receive backlash from the undocumented segment of the population which makes up the majority currently. Resultantly, policy slippages in favor of political gains may occur.

Political unrest amid rising geo-political risks

- Political tensions have picked-up as the ruling coalition desperately tries to gather support for multiple constitutional amendments, amid questions over the scope of the amendments and their repercussions for democracy in Pakistan. Further, law and order situation also remains fragile.
- Elsewhere, intensifying conflict in the Middle-East may have wider implications for Pakistan, as the same poses an upside risk to the global commodity prices, specially crude oil.

Macroeconomic indicators continue to show signs of improvement



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Jul'24 LSM index fell 2.1%MoM; up 2.4%YoY

■ Large Scale Manufacturing Index (LSMI) was up 2.4% YoY in Jul'24, driven mainly by Textiles (1.5 points), Garments (1.4 points), Automobiles (1.01 points), Tobacco (0.81 points), Food (0.63 points), Coke & Petroleum Products (0.41 points), respectively. Whereas, Jul'24 LSMI was down 2.1% MoM.

FBR's tax collection arrived at PKR 796Bn in Aug'24, up 18.8%YoY

■ During 2MFY25, FBR collected net revenue of ~PKR1.45Tn against a target of ~PKR1.55Tn, translating into a short-fall of PKR 99Bn. Tax collection in Aug′24 was recorded at PKR 796Bn, up ~19%YoY.

NCPI arrived at 9.6%YoY in Aug'24. Sep'24 NCPI expected at 7.8%YoY

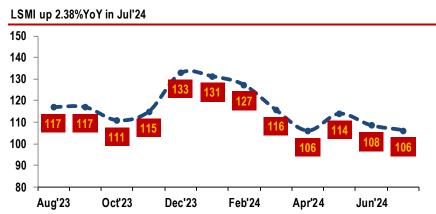
• Sep'24 NCPI is expected at 7.8%YoY amid slowdown in core inflation and lower fuel prices, supported by downtick in food prices and stable utilities. We expect FY25 NCPI to average under 8%, pointing at further rate cuts.

Current account surplus clocked-in at ~USD 75Mn in Aug'24

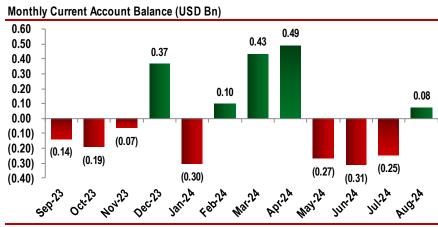
■ Aug'24 CAB posted a surplus of ~USD 75Mn, supported by robust remittances which arrived at USD 2.9Bn. Meanwhile, trade deficit was recorded at USD 2.2Bn, up 23%YoY. FY25TD CAD is down 81%YoY.

PKR continued to hold firm as SBP's FX reserves remained stable

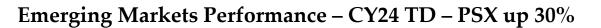
■ The Rupee appreciated on the basis of the EFF approval by the IMF Executive Board, currently trading at ~PKR 277/USD. Further, the SBP net FX reserves amounted to ~USD 9.5Bn as of September 20, 2024. Total net foreign exchange reserves of Pakistan stand at ~USD 14.9Bn.



Source: PBS & TSL Research

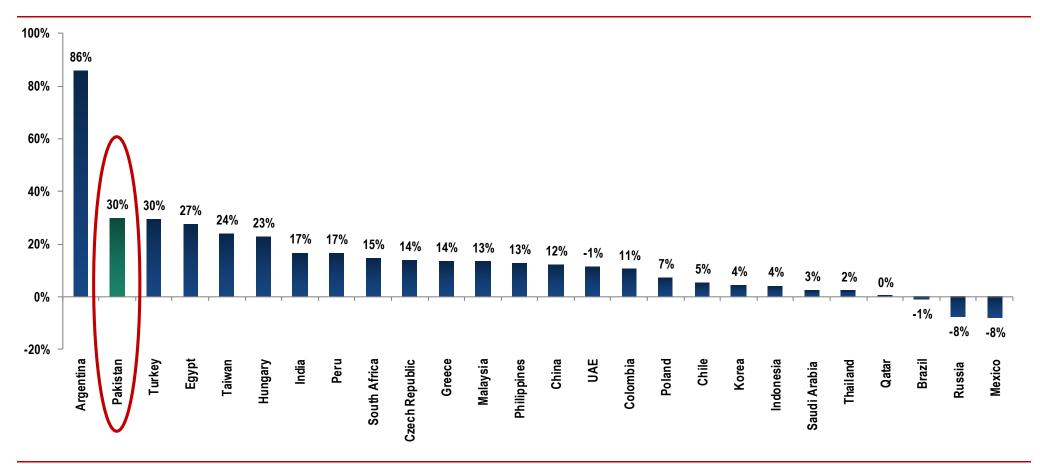


Source: SBP & TSL Research





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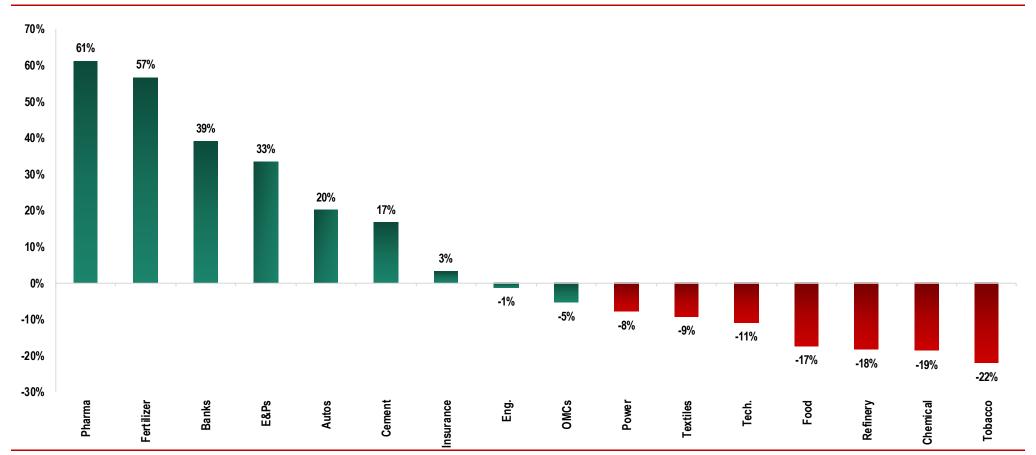
Source: Investing.com & TSL Research

As of September 30, 2024 close





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Source: PSX & TSL Research

Foreign Portfolio Investment Flows for Sep'24



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	Sep'24 Portfolio Flows - FIPI vs LIPI (USD Mn)											
Sectors	FIPI			LIPI								
	Gross Buy	Gross Sell	Net.	Banks	Broker	Comp.	Indivi.	Insur.	Funds	NBFCs	Others	Net.
Cement	10.34	-14.79	-4.46	2.67	-0.20	-1.30	-0.84	-2.31	6.26	0.02	0.17	4.46
Banks	13.50	-24.62	-11.12	-0.69	-1.38	3.56	-1.86	4.15	8.68	0.04	-1.39	11.12
Technology	27.30	-23.58	3.72	0.02	-0.93	-0.31	-2.02	-0.55	0.57	0.02	-0.52	-3.73
Textile	0.89	-1.28	-0.39	3.54	-0.01	-3.95	-0.03	0.20	1.14	-0.00	-0.49	0.39
Fertlizer	8.94	-30.91	-21.97	0.12	-4.39	6.79	-1.90	1.73	19.63	0.07	-0.08	21.97
Others	31.65	-34.36	-2.71	6.33	-0.71	-3.76	-0.26	-9.46	8.68	0.03	1.86	2.71
ОМС	2.06	-2.78	-0.71	0.55	-0.24	0.12	-0.66	0.07	1.48	0.02	-0.61	0.71
E&P	19.78	-33.58	-13.80	0.88	0.57	1.58	13.84	-3.97	0.10	-0.01	0.82	13.80
Power	13.35	-16.01	-2.67	-4.60	-1.63	-4.41	15.22	-0.01	-3.88	-0.05	2.03	2.67
Food	2.78	-3.52	-0.74	-0.05	0.14	-0.03	1.05	-0.59	0.41	0.00	-0.20	0.74
Debt Market	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.23	-0.73	-0.22	0.11	-0.75	0.00	0.34	-0.00
Total	130.59	-185.43	-54.84	9.78	-8.56	-2.44	22.30	-10.62	42.31	0.14	1.93	54.84

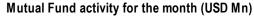
Source: NCCPL & TSL Research

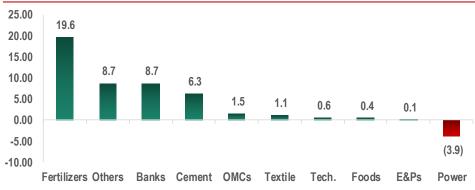
- Foreigners (including overseas Pakistanis) were net sellers of USD 54.84Mn worth of shares.
- Mutual Funds were the biggest buyers on the local front followed by Individuals & Banks.
- Insurance were the only sellers on the local front followed by Broker.

Local Investment Portfolio Flows during Sep'24



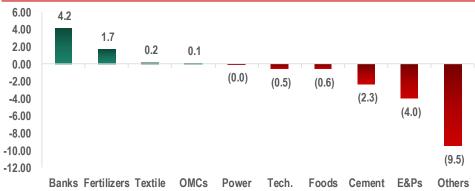
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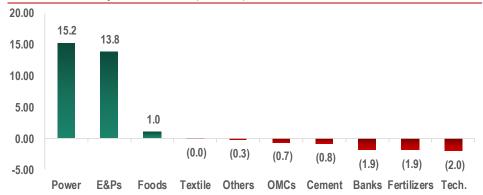
Source: NCCPL & Research

Insurance activity for the month (USD Mn)



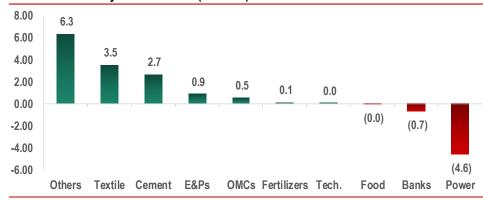
Source: NCCPL & TSL Research

Individuals activity for the month (USD Mn)



Source: NCCPL & TSL Research

Banks/DFIs activity for the month (USD Mn)



Source: NCCPL & TSL Research

Overweight

Marketweight

Top-Picks Stance NIMs to increase sequentially on the back of re-pricing lag between assets

Sectors

Banks

Fertilizer

E&Ps

Cements

Overweight

FABL. HMB. BAHL, MCB and BAFL

and liabilities, as interest rates are cut further during CY24. (Positive) Banks to benefit from increased Government borrowing appetite. Lower interest rates to support private sector credit demand too. (Positive) Asset quality remains robust with increased coverage levels. (Positive)

Robust and stable CARs at large. (Positive) Urea offtake down 9%MoM to 559K tons in Aug'24 due to lower cultivation owing to the heavy monsoon rains. (Negative)

remained stable at PKR 11,815/bag in Sep'24. (Neutral)

Aug'24 and slowdown in construction activity. (Negative)

Overweight FFC & EFERT

Urea prices were down 2%MoM to PKR 4,665 in Sep'24 while DAP prices

FBR has proposed to hike GST on tractors from 10% to 18%. (Negative)

OGDC. MARI & PPL

LUCK. FCCL

Export dispatches surged by 12%MoM on account of better retention prices and KOHC i.e. use of efficient fuel mix specifically from North based players. (Positive) MLCF intends to acquire additional shares and control in AGL. The • Company already holds 21% shareholding in AGL. (Positive for MLCF)

Imported supplies of DAP reached at 241K tons in Sep'24 to meet demand and keep supplies smooth for the Rabi season 2024-25. (Positive) Arab Light price averaged ~USD 76/bbl. during Sep'24, down 4%MoM amid easing supply situation and demand concerns. (Negative)

Ongoing discoveries and production enhancement projects to help arrest the natural decline in production and also increase future earnings. (Positive) Increase in consumer gas prices to increase collections from Sui companies

Triggers

going forward, helping curb circular debt flow. (Positive for OGDC & PPL) 2MFY25 dispatches fell drastically by 21%YoY amid lower local sales i.e.

higher taxes along with increase in FED, impact of heavy monsoons during

(Positive) renewal of investment of up to PKR 600Mn in associated company.

(Positive for KOHC)

previous month. (Positive)

KOHC's Board of Directors approved share buyback of up to 12Mn with

FY24 earnings up 8%YoY. (Positive)

adversely. (Negative) Cement prices went up by PKR 12/bag to an avg. PKR 1,457/bag.

Positive developments on the Reko Dig front, including foreign investment as well as production from Abu Dhabi Block 5. (Positive for OGDC, PPL and MARI)

Lower off-take by gas companies and GENCOs affecting E&P sales

Capacity utilization increased to 49% in Aug'24 from 44% in the

FFC's Board of Directors have approved merger with FFBL based on a swap ratio of 1 ordinary share of FCC for every 4.29 ordinary shares of FFBL. The merger is expected to cement FFC's position as the dominant player in both Urea and DAP markets. (Positive for FFC)

FATIMA has purchased 9.9Mn shares of AGL with the total shareholding reaching at 10%. Whereas, FFC has also made a public announcement to acquire AGL shares. (Positive for FFC & FATIMA)

dividend yield on a CY25 basis. (Positive) Across the board focus on digital and Islamic Banking to boost ROEs in the long-term for the industry. (Positive)

High payouts to continue amid strong earnings during CY24. 1HCY24 Universe earnings are up 26% over the SPLY. (Positive) TSL Banking Universe is currently trading at ~P/B(x) 0.7x, offering 15%

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Monthly Market Update - September'24

Sector Outlook Monday, September 30, 2024 **Top-Picks Triggers** Power generation was down 11%MoM/17%YoY in Aug'24 amid demand Power sector earnings up 9%YoY in FY24. (Positive) concerns due to surge in tariffs and shift towards solar. Cost of generation

fell 2%MoM/YoY due to higher Hydel based generation. (Negative)

revise PPAs for certain IPPs. (Negative for HUBC and others)

Capacity payments likely to fall amid negotiations with the Government to

Sectors	Stance
Power	Marketwei

Pharma

Autos

ight

Marketweight

Marketweight

HUBC

AGP

- Circular debt from the power sector stands ~PKR 2.7Trn. (Negative) Contribution from strategic investments including launch of Mega Motors (BYD) to support HUBC's consolidated earnings. (Positive for HUBC)
 - Government plans to revive 16 sectoral councils to strengthen trade and investment in the country's pharmaceutical industry. (Positive) Increase in sales tax from 1% to 18% on materials used in production of APIs expected to squeeze sector profitability. (Negative)
 - - SIFC plans on establishing Pharma Economic Zone under PPP to attract Chinese investment; will bode well for the sector. (Positive) Passenger Cars, LCV & Jeep sales in Aug'24 totaled 8.652 units, up 1%MoM/up 14%YoY. Tractor sales in Aug'24 were 2,670 units, up 83%MoM due to a surge in demand driven by increased productivity among farmers.
- INDU
- - - to decrease in HRC prices by 5%MoM. (Neutral)

ISL &

- **Engineering Marketweight** MUGHAL exemptions from GST. (Negative) Industry margins dropped adversely due to rise in electricity cost which has increased cost of production i.e. largely for long steel players. (Negative)

shutdowns i.e. INDU. (Neutral) Auto-financing declined ~1%MoM during Aug'24. (Negative)

However there has been a notable shortage of inventory, leading to plant

- Sales tax disparities hurting survival of tractor industry. (Negative for MTL) CRC-HRC margins jumped by 15%MoM to USD 62/ton during Sep'24 due

 - Delay in implementing FY25 budgetary measures regarding steel scrap
- months, representing 30% of its total capacity. (Negative for ASTL) MUGHAL's Board of Directors approved BMR of the existing steel bar re-rolling mill with a total CAPEX of PKR 2Bn. (Positive for MUGHAL)

- to be completed by Dec'25. (Positive for HUBC) CPHGC paid dividends of USD 150Mn in FY24. Dividends from TEL
- and TN also likely to commence soon. (Positive for HUBC)
- Pharma exports clocked in at ~USD 28Mn in Aug'24, up 3%YoY/ down
- 17%MoM. Exports were up ~15.8%YoY during 2MFY24. (Positive)
- Pharma production declined 3%YoY in Jul'24. While, the production
- was up ~1.2% on a sequential basis. However, for FY24 the production
- posted a significant growth of 16%YoY. (Neutral)
- Stable PKR and falling interest rates to boost profitability. (Positive)
- CKD imports were recorded at USD ~132Mn in Aug'24. Imports were up 1.3xMoM and 59%YoY respectively. (Positive)
- Government to finalize National EV policy by Oct'24 to promote local
- manufacturing and early adaption of EVs and NEVs. (Positive)
- Intensifying competition in the EV/Hybrid segment. (Neutral)
- ASTL temporarily suspended operations of SITE rolling mill for six

Fauji Foundation made public announcement of intention to acquire

AGHA's shares and control of the company. (Positive for AGHA)

The Government has allocated PKR 1.2Trn for the power sector in

HUBC to increase in holding further in SECMC with phase-III expected

subsidies for FY25 according to the Federal Budget Brief. (Positive)

- Monthly Market Update September'24

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Sector Outlook Monday, September 30, 2024

Sectors	Stance	Top-Picks	Triggers	
Chemical	Underweight	NA	 growth expected during 2HCY24 as the economy recovers. (Neutral) Hike in energy tariffs are expected to hit margins, which might not be fully passed-on. (Negative) Global PVC & Ethylene demand to remain subdued amid slowdown in China and the monsoon season in India. Resultantly, prices are expected to remain Dome 	Ethylene margins dropped during the month and are currently ring ~USD 315-350/ton, down from ~USD 362/ton average ded last month. (Negative for EPCL) Temperature Direct Chlorination (HTDC) and Hydrogen Peroxide pected to come online in CY24. (Positive for EPCL) estic demand outlook for Chlor-Alkali business remains positive attractive margins. (Positive for EPCL)
Textile Composite	Marketweight	ILP	 Textile exports decreased 13%YoY in Aug'24. Similarly, on a sequential basis exports soared by 29% to arrive at ~USD 1.6Bn. (Positive) Income from exports previously taxed at 1% under FTR will now be subject to the normal tax rate and treated as minimum tax in the future. (Negative) Leveraged players to benefit from falling interest rates. (Positive) ILP's approval of capital expenditure for expanding across various business segments is expected to yield long-term benefits (Positive ILP) Comp 	les production declined slightly in Jul'24. However, on a yearly is the production increased by 8.4%YoY. (Neutral) ate on supplies made by point of sale (POS) retailers dealing in er and textile products has been raised to 18%. (Negative) at Mills Limited to setup a private limited company in the Positive NML) panies working on optimizing energy mix. (Positive) ing power tariffs have made several units non-viable. (Negative)
OMCs	Marketweight	PSO	 OMC sales fell 14%YoY/up 2%MoM to ~1.2Mn tons in Aug'24. (Neutral) Volumetric oil imports increased 45%MoM/27%YoY in Aug'24. Cumulatively, during 2MFY24 oil imports were up 24%YoY. (Neutral) PSO's Sep'24 cargo deferred with upcoming 3 cargoes expected to be Expect 	allowed exchange rate adjustment of PKR 3.13/liter and PKR liter on HSD and MS. (Positive PSO) etary easing to reduce finance costs. (Positive for PSO) cted increase in PDL may further put pressure on POL volumes, g forward. (Negative)

Important disclosure



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TSL employs a 3-tier rating mechanism i.e 'BUY', 'HOLD' and 'SELL', which is based upon the level of expected return for a specific stock. When total return (capital gain + dividends) exceeds 16%, a 'BUY' rating is assigned. A 'SELL' rating is issued whenever total return is less than -6% and for return in between the 2 ranges, 'HOLD' rating is meted out. Different securities firms use a variety of rating terms/systems to describe their recommendations. Similar rating terms used by other securities companies may not be equivalent to TSL rating system.

Time horizon is usually the annual financial reporting period of the company (unless otherwise mentioned in the report). Ratings are updated daily and can therefore change daily. They can change because of a move in the stock's price, a change in the analyst's estimate of the stock's fair value, a change in the analyst's assessment of a company's business risk, or a combination of any of these factors. In addition, research reports contain information carrying the analyst's views and investors should carefully read the entire research report and not infer its contents from the rating ascribed by the analyst. In any case, ratings or research should not be used or relied upon as investment advice. An investor's decision to buy, sell or hold a stock should depend on individual circumstances (such as the investors existing holdings or investment objectives) and other considerations.

Target price risk disclosures

Any inability to compete successfully in the markets may harm the business. This could be a result of many factors which may include (but not limited to) geographic mix and introduction of improved products or service offerings by competitors. The results of operations may be materially affected by global economic conditions generally, including conditions in financial markets. The company is exposed to market risks, such as changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates and input prices. From time to time, the company may enter into transactions, including transactions in derivative instruments, to manage/offset certain of these exposures.

Valuation Methodology

To arrive at our period end target prices, TSL uses different valuation methodologies including

- Discounted cash flow (DCF, DDM)
- Justified price to book (JPB)
- Relative Valuation (P/E, P/B, P/S etc.)
- Equity & Asset return based methodologies (EVA, Residual Income etc.)

SECP JamaPunji Portal link: www.JamaPunji.pk

Frequently Used Acronyms

TP FCFE	Target Price Free Cash Flows to Equity	DDM FCFF	Dividend Discount Model Free Cash Flows to Firm	FCF DCF	Free Cash Flows Discounted Cash Flows
PE	Price to Earnings ratio	PB	Price to Book ratio	BVPS	Book Value per Share
EPS	Earnings per Share	DPS	Dividend per Share	ROE	Return on Equity
ROA	Return on Assets	SOTP	Sum of the Parts	JPB	Justified Price to Book