#### Sector Note



## **Textile & Garment**

# **Turning point for yarn makers**

- We expect that discretionary demand of Vietnam's top export markets such as the U.S. and E.U and even China, will soften further into 2023F.
- We expect yarn manufacturers to recover from 3Q23F thanks to demand recovery from the U.S. market.
- Our stock pick is STK, while TNG, ADS are on our the watchlist.

#### Tough time but there are signs of recovery

After decreased 6.8% yoy in 4Q22 due to weak orders, Vietnam export value extended the downward trend, fell 17% yoy in 2M23. However, we see positive signals from both domestic and global markets. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of Vietnam, the U.S. and China increased by 3.8 pts, 0.9 pts, 2.6 pts mom, respectively. While the inflation in the U.S. and E.U are cooling down in 2M23. With the indicators recovering, we expect the export sector to face less difficulties in 2Q23F and recover gradually in 3Q23F.

## China re-opening is a double-edge sword

We expect China to fully reopen its economy soon in 2Q23F. We believe that this event will support export goods to China such as fiber and yarn to recover from 2H23F. Accordingly, China is the main yarn importer of Vietnam, accounting for 48% of the total export value. In addition, the reopening of some of China's net exports can help reduce input costs of garment enterprises as 70% of fabric materials from Vietnam are imported from China. On the other hand, China is the largest supplier of T&G to the U.S with 22.4% share, followed by Vietnam with 14.87% in FY22. We expect that garment companies with high share of export to U.S such as MSH, GIL, TCM, VGT will face challenges in 2H23.

#### We expect yarn manufacturers to recover from 3Q23F

As upstream producers, yarn makers will be affected earlier than downstream firms as large customers reduce inventories amid expected weaker end-customer demand. As a result, we believe that yarn companies such as STK, HTG, PPH, and ADS will show signs of recovery from 3Q23, earlier than the garment manufacturers. STK's management disclosed sale volume in Feb-22 to improve compared to 4Q22. While, HTG expect 1Q23 net profit to reach VND65bn (+20.3% qoq).

#### Our stock pick is STK while TNG, ADS are on our the watchlist

We like stocks that are upstream in the industry, which have the potential to recover earlier in 2023F. Thus, we prefer STK for our stock pick. We expect STK's net profit growth will likely to bottom out from 3Q23F thanks to demand recovery and customers refilling inventories to produce for 1Q24F season. We expect FY23-24F sales volume to grow 15%/22% respectively, bringing the FY23-24 earnings growth back to 2-digit positive territory. In addition, investors should keep focus on ADS and TNG thanks to taking advantage from China reopening economy and remaining stable orders from long-time partners.

Figure 1: Quarterly aggregated NP growth of T&G companies



Source: Fiinpro, VNDIRECT RESEARCH

#### Analyst(s):



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## Key charts: Vietnam textiles & garment snapsot in 2022

#### Viet Nam export value in 2022

Vietnam's export turnover in 2022 recorded positive results, reaching US\$371.5bn (+10.6% yoy) thanks to high contribution from main export industries such as textile and garment, wood and wooden product, shoe and sandals. Total export value of 3 industries achieved US\$62.2bn in 2022 (+6.01% yoy) thank to pent-up demand in the main export markets such as the U.S., E.U post-Covid 19 period.

## Vietnam's textile and garment export value

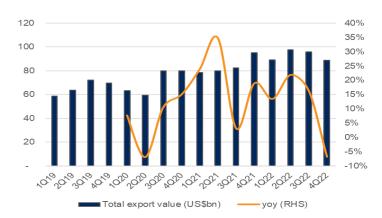
The T&G export turnover decreased 20.4% yoy in 4Q22. In which, fabrics and garment export value decreased 10.2% yoy to US\$8.5bn, while fibre and yarn export value plunged 50.5% yoy due to weak demand in major market (caused by on-going high inflationary expectation and, and potential economic recession in U.S., E.U). Overall, the total export T&G value in 2022 increased by 12.8% yoy, to US\$44bn, fulfilling 100% of the government's guidance for 2022.

### T&G export destination in 2022

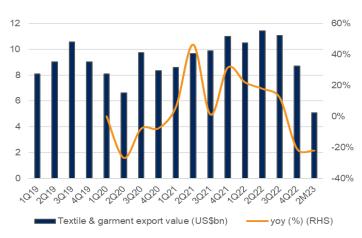
According to General Department of Vietnam Custom (GDVC), regarding the export mix by geographic regions in 2022, the U.S. remained the largest importer of Vietnam T&G products with an import value of US\$17.3bn (+7.9% yoy, accounting for 46.3% of Vietnam's textile and garment exporting value) thanks to the recovery demand with traditional products such as vests, shirts, jeans. 2022 export value to EU reached US\$4.46bn, increasing 34.7% yoy thanks to taking advantages from EVFTA. Whereas, exporting to Japan market increased slightly 6.0% yoy 1H22

## The NP growth of T&G companies in 2022

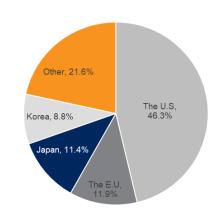
4Q22 aggregated revenue of listed T&G companies decreased slightly 7.2% yoy following the slowing down orders. Gross margin of sector plunged 4.5% pts as T&G enterprises focus on lowering the selling price to destock the inventory. Thus, 4Q22 net profit of sector dropped 52.8% yoy in 4Q22. Overall, sector revenue and net profit in 2022 rose 20.1% yoy and 5.7% yoy, respectively.



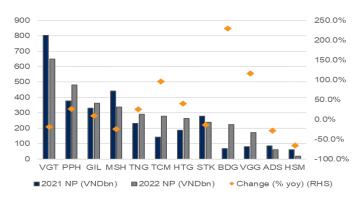
Sources: MOIT, VNDIRECT RESEARCH



Sources: MOIT, VNDIRECT RESEARCH



Sources: MOIT, VNDIRECT RESEARCH



Sources: Fiinpro, VNDIRECT RESEARCH



## A sluggish start to the year 2023

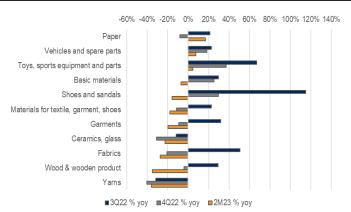
## Export industries are still on downward trending in the first 2M23

After weak 4Q22, the export value extended the downward trend, fell 17% yoy in 2M23. Textiles and garments, shoes and sandals and related products all showed negative results (-17.1% yoy), which is the results of weak demand from the U.S. and the E.U market, force the retailers to reduce inventory level. Wood and wooden products feel the heat from weak U.S housing market, fell 34.8% yoy. Basic material, the spotlight in most quarters of 2022, has started to see negative growth in 2M23 (-7.2% yoy).

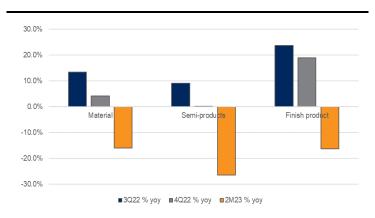
Paper, vehicles and spare parts, toys, sport equipment are a few export sectors still record positive value growth. Paper products is benefited from the reopening of China market.

Figure 2: Export value of major export industries dropped significantly in 2M23

Figure 3: Semi-product export value decreased 26.6% yoy in 2M23



Source: Conference Board, VNDIRECT RESEARCH



Source: Bloomberg, VNDIRECT RESEARCH

Figure 4: T&G import value of the E.U in Dec-22 decreased 2.8% yoy

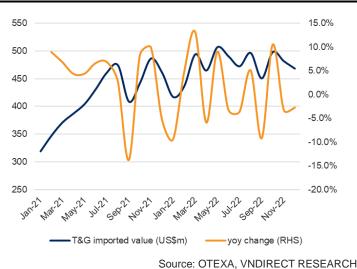


Figure 5: T&G import value of the U.S in Dec-22 decreased 15.9% yoy



Source: OTEXA, VNDIRECT RESEARCH

## We see a few improving signals from both domestic and global markets

Vietnam: The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of Vietnam's manufacturing industry rebounded from 47.4 points in January 2023 to 51.2 points in February 2023. Additionally, new export orders rose for a second



straight month on the back of improved international demand. Specifically, the total number of export orders in Feb-22 increased by 34.7% mom and 9.5% yoy compared to Dec-22.

U.S. markets: S&P Global Manufacturing PMI for the US increased to 47.8 in Feb-23 from 46.9 in Jan-23, beating forecasts of 47.1. Although the exchange rate tends to cool down in 2M23, it will still be at a high level in 2023. We think that Vietnam's goods exports in 2023 will be under competitive pressure from other competitors such as China and India.

Figure 9: PMI for the U.S. increased to 47.8 in Feb-23 from 46.9 in Jan-

Figure 6: PMI of Vietnam's manufacturing industry increased from 47.4 Figure 7: US\$/VND increased slightly 1.4% mom in Feb-23 points in Jan-23 to 51.2 points in Feb-23

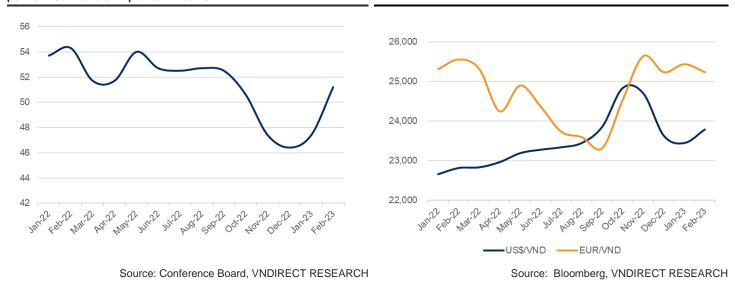
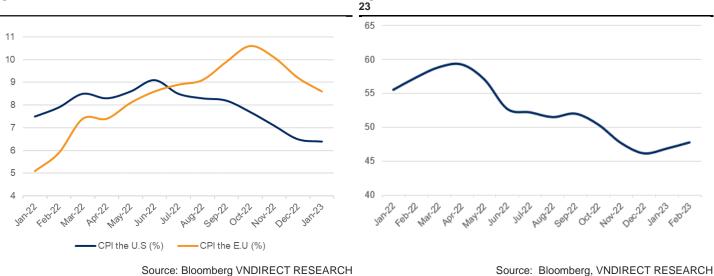


Figure 8: The CPI in the U.S. cooled down in Jan-23



FY23 Outlook: Turning point for yarn makers in 3Q23F

We believe that there are two variables that need to focus in 2023: U.S inflation trend and the speed of reopening of the Chinese economy. We believe that US inflation falling to 3% will help the U.S. consumer sentiment be more positive and retailers can start refilling inventory.



## Light to appear on U.S market

We see that the demand for textile and apparel products is likely to recover in the U.S. The U.S. Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index of nondurable goods in January-23 increased 0.8% mom (vs. a decrease of 0.7% mom in Dec-22), showing that the consumers in the state started to purchase more nondurable goods, including clothing and other textile products.

In the BoF-McKinsey State of Fashion 2023 Survey conducted by McKinsey, 61% of executives in the fashion industry in the U.S. expected the same or better outlook in 2023 than 2022, as the U.S. is more insulated from the Ukraine conflict. The European and Asian executives were more pessimistic, with 64% and 53% expecting worsening conditions, respectively. McKinsey forecasted that the retail sales of non-luxury fashion can grow 1%-6% yoy in the U.S, 2%-7% in China and -4% to 1% in Europe.

Figure 10: Forecasted non-luxury fashion sales growth by regions in 2023

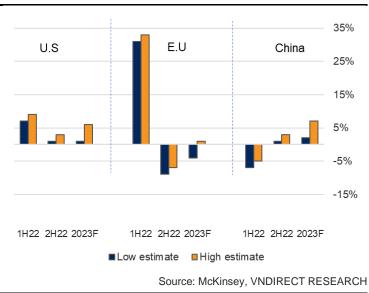
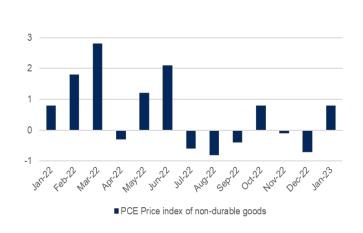


Figure 11: The PCE price index of nondurable goods in Jan-23 increased 0.8% mom



Source: OTEXA, VNDIRECT RESEARCH

### China reopening is a double-edge sword

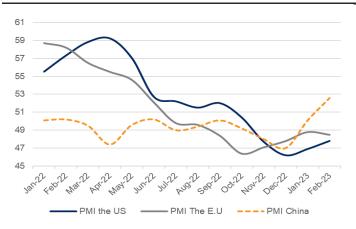
PMI in China rose to 52.6 in Feb-23. This was the first increase in factory activity since last July, and the highest reading in 8 months, after a shift in COVID policy. We expect China to fully reopen its economy soon in 2Q23F. China opens its economy will support export goods to China such as fiber and yarn to recover since 2H23. Accordingly, China is the main yarn importer of Vietnam, accounting for 48% of the total export value. We believe that yarn manufacturers with a high share of exports to China like Dam San JSC (ADS) will taking advantage. In addition, the reopening of some of China's net exports can help reduce input costs of garment enterprises such as VGT, HTG, PPH.

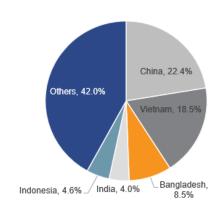
On the other hand, China's reopening the economy could pose many challenges for garment enterprises in 2023. Currently China is the main competitor of Vietnam in the U.S market. According to OTEXA, the US' imports of textiles and garment in 2022 achieved US\$132.2bn (+16.9% yoy). With a 25.65% share, China is the largest supplier of textiles and clothing to the US, followed by Vietnam with 14.87%. We expect that garment companies with high share of export to U.S such as MSH, GIL, TCM, VGT will face difficult in 2H23.



Figure 12: The PMI in China rebounded in Feb-23 (unit: VNDbn)

Figure 13: China is the largest supplier of T&G to the U.S in 2022





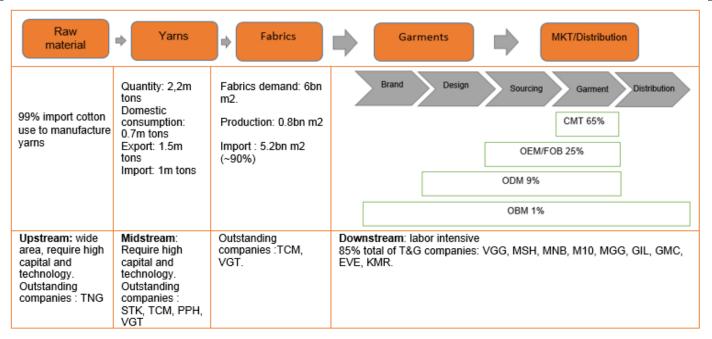
Source: Bloomberg VNDIRECT RESEARCH

Source: MOIT, VNDIRECT RESEARCH

## We expect a turning point for yarn makers in 3Q23

As an upstream raw material producer, yarn manufacturer is affected earlier than downstream companies as large customers reduce inventories amid expected weaker end-customer demand. As a result, we believe that yarn companies such as STK, ADS, HTG, PPH will show signs of recovery relatively early compared to the garment manufacturers. STK's management disclosed sale volume in Feb-22 to improve compared to 4Q22. While HTG expect 1Q23 net profit to reach VND65bn (+20.3% qoq). ADS also record positive signals in 1Q23 after China start reopen the economy. According to ADS's management, orders in 1Q23 will equivalent with 1Q22 and increase 30% vs. 4Q22.

Figure 14: Value chain of T&G industry



Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH, Company report

## **Garment segment: Waiting for clearer signals**

We believe that garment enterprises will face more challenges in 2023 due to a sharp drop in orders. According to Mr. Vu Duc Giang - President of Vietnam Textile & Apparel Association, orders in 1Q23 decreased by 25-27% yoy due to



the decrease in global purchasing power. Meanwhile, VGT forecasts that orders in 2023 will decrease by 25% yoy. We expect garment enterprises to recover since 4Q23 when cooling down the inflation in the U.S and the E.U. We forecast large garment companies such as VGT, TCM, GMC, GIL to record negative NP growth in 2023.

## Our stock pick is STK

We like stocks that are upstream in the industry, which have the potential to recover earlier in 2023F. Thus, we prefer STK for our stock pick. We expect STK's net profit growth will likely to bottom out from 3Q23F thanks to demand recovery and customers refilling inventories to produce for 1Q24 season. We expect FY23-24F sales volume to grow 15%/22% respectively, bringing the FY23-24 earnings growth back to 2-digit positive territory. In addition, investors should keep focus on ADS thanks to taking advantage from reopening economy of China.

We also put TNG in our watchlist. Columbia Sportwear Company announces 2023 business plan with net sales and net profit increase 6% yoy and 7.7% yoy in 2023 thanks to positive consumer feedback with new collection. We expect TNG to taking advantage from the Columbia revenue growth as Columbia is TNG's longtime partner, accounting for 10.2% TNG revenue in 2022. In addition, TNG management disclosed that other large customers such as Decathlon and the Children Place still remain orders in 1Q23. As a result, after outstanding business results in 2022, TNG has a business plan of 2023 with revenue and net profit achieving VND7,500bn (+11% yoy) and VND337bn (+16% yoy) respectively.

Figure 15: Investment ideas

No	Ticker	1-year TP (VND/share)	Rating	Investment thesis
1	STOCK PICK STK	37,700	ADD	<ol> <li>We expect Unitex factory phase 1 to operate commercially in 1Q24F, increase STK's total capacity to 96,000tonnes/years in order to capture the growing demand for recycled and virgin yarn of domestic and local export market. When Unitex project is completed, STK become the second largest yarn manufacturer at Vietnam in 2025F.</li> <li>Net profit growth will likely to bottom out since 3Q23 thanks to demand recovery and customers refilling inventories to produce for 1Q24 season. We expect FY23-24F sales volume to grow 15%/22% respectively, bringing the FY23-24 earnings growth back to 2-digit positive territory.</li> <li>Currently, STK is traded at 9.0x/7.7x FY23/FY24F PE, which is a 18.2%/29.9% discount to its 3-year average. We believe this valuation is relatively attractive for a leading yarn manufacturer with sizeable capacity and proven track record</li> </ol>
2	ADS	N/a	Non-rate	<ol> <li>(1) ADS is expected to put into operation the An Ninh fiber factory with a modern production line according to European standards at the end of 1Q23, increasing the total capacity to 19,000 tonnes of CD32 Fiber/year and 3,000 tons of Towel/year and becoming one of the largest fiber production units in Vietnam. Additionally, the company will continue to hand over the remaining portion of the Phu Xuan Project, Bo Xuyen Residential Area.</li> <li>(2) In the Industrial Zone segment, the company will continue to hand over the 75 ha An Ninh Industrial Cluster and complete the procedures for developing the 38.8 ha Vu Ninh Industrial Cluster in Kien Xuong District, Thai Binh Province, which serves production and industrial sectors.</li> <li>(3) ADS has set a business plan for 2023 with revenue and pre-tax profit reaching VND2,984bn (+73.8% yoy) and VND110bn (+32.5% yoy) respectively.</li> </ol>



(1) TNG has a business plan of 2023 with revenue and net profit achieving VND7,500bn (+11% yoy) and VND337bn (+16% yoy) respectively.

3 TNG N/a Non-rate

(2) TNG's management disclosed that TNG will focus on lower ASP to remain sale volume. We expect TNG to maintain revenue and NP growth momentum thanks to stable orders from longtime partners such as Decathlon and Columbia.

Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

Figure 16: Peer comparison in T&G industries

				Market					3 year-EPS				
			TP	сар	P/E	E (x)	P/I	В	growth	ROE (	%)	ROA	A (%)
Company	Ticker	Recom,	LC\$	US\$m	ттм	FY23F	Current	FY23F	CAGR	TTM	FY23F	TTM	FY23F
Thanh Cong Textile Garment Investment Trading JSC	TCM VN	na	na	194.8	17.4	na	1.9	1.6	25	12.9	12.2	7.8	7.3
NHA BE Garment Corp-JSC	MNB VN	na	na	70.6	65.3	na	0.9	na	-35.6	2.1	na	0.4	na
TNG Investment & Trading JSC	TNG VN	na	na	174.3	6.2	5.4	0.8	na	0.6	17.9	15.3	5.9	na
Mirae JSC	KMR VN	na	na	13.2	10.2	na	0.2	na	4973.3	2.8	na	1.7	na
Song Hong Garment JSC	MSH VN	na	na	81.1	6.8	5.9	1.6	1.3	8.8	23.9	18	11.2	9.6
Vietnam National Textile & Garment Group	VGT VN	na	na	517.4	7.1	na	0.5	na	72.8	11.6	na	4.1	na
Viet Tien Garment Corp	VGG VN	na	na	36.2	29	na	0.7	na	-41	3.1	na	1.7	na
Century Synthetic Fiber Corp	STK VN	Add	37,700	89.6	8.7	7.2	1.4	1.2	35.5	17.2	16.5	11.7	12.0
Mean					10.6	35.4	3.1	11.8	629.9	11.4	15.5	5.6	9.6
Median					10.5	34.2	2.8	12	16.9	12.3	15.9	5.0	9.6
				Sou	rce: V	NDIRE	CT RES	EARCH	I, BLOOMBE	RG (Dat	a as in	07 Ma	ar 2023



#### **CENTURY SYNTHETIC FIBER CORP - STK**

#### Add

Target price (12M)

VND37,700

## Lacklustre in 1H23F, better in 2H23F

3.5%

BASIC MATERIALS | Update

Consensus\*: Add:6 Hold:1 Reduce:1

Target price / Consensus:

## Key changes in the report

Lower EPS FY23F by 30.8%

Previous rating	
Previous TP	VND
Current price	VND25,700
52w high (VND)	57,334
52w low (VND)	24,950
3m Avg daily value (VNDmn)	1,399
Market cap (VNDbn)	2,107
Free float	50%
Dividend yield	4.85%
TTM P/E (x)	8.75
Current P/B (x)	1.37

#### Price performance



Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

#### Ownership

Huong Viet Investment JSC	20.0%
Dang My Linh	14.3%
Dang Treu Hoa	13.8%
Others	51.9%

Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH

#### Analyst(s):



**Hao Nguyen Duc** 

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- STK 's FY22 revenue and net profit (NP) were VND2,117bn (+3.6% yoy) and VND240bn (-13.7% yoy), fulfilling only 85% and 79% of our forecasts.
- We expect STK's NP to recover from 3Q23F thanks to low base 2H22 and 1Q24F season customer inventory refilling.
- Upgrade to ADD with lower target price of VND37,700/share as we see net profit likely to bottom out from 3Q23F.

### 4Q22 earnings hurt by weak demand

4Q22 revenue decreased by 13.3% yoy to VND430bn following a weak demand in domestic and export markets. Gross margin (GM) edged down 0.4% pts yoy to 14.7% as STK reduced average selling price (ASP) to de-stocking inventory. As a result, STK posted VND42bn in 4Q22 NP (-43% yoy). For FY22, STK recorded revenue of VND2,117bn (+3.6% yoy) and NP of VND240bn (-13.7% yoy), fulfilling on 85% and 79% of our forecasts.

## The new Unitex factory will come online in 1Q24F

STK has broken ground for the construction of Unitex factory since Jan-23. The phase 1 of Unitex factory will be put run commercially from 1Q24, 3 months later than our previous expectation which prompted us to lower FY23F NP by 30.8% vs. previous forecast. We expect phase 1 of the Unitex factory to operate at 30% capacity in 2024F with production volume of 9,600 tonnes, lifting sale volume by 20% yoy in FY24F.

## Net profit growth will likely to bottom out from 3Q23F

In Oct-22, STK closed Cu Chi factory which account for 30% of STK's production capacity due to weak demand. We think that the tough time will linger in 1H23 with sales volume is expected to decrease by 25% yoy. We expect global inflation pressure will cool down since 3Q23F, which might urge textiles/footwear producers to increase the order volume for 2024 season. Thus, STK's 2H23F sales volume might increase by 40% yoy, bringing the FY23-24 earnings growth back to 2-digit positive territory.

#### We upgrade to ADD with lower target price of VND37,700/share

We revise down our TP by 30.6% following an FY23F EPS downgrade of 30.8%. Currently, STK is traded at 9.0x/7.7x FY23/FY24F PE, which are 18.2%/29.9% discount to its 3-year average. We believe the weak 4Q22 earnings could offer an opportunity to accumulate as we see potential net profit growth to bottom out from 3Q23F. This valuation is relatively attractive for a leading yarn manufacturer. When Unitex project is completed, STK will become the second largest yarn manufacturer at Vietnam in 2025F. Upside catalyst is higher-thanexpected sales volume of recycled and virgin yarn. Downside risks include: (1) stronger-than-expected inflation in the main export market of STK and (2) longer than expected the construction time of Unitex factory

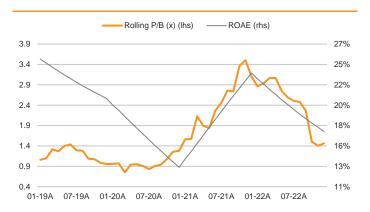
Financial summary (VND)	12-21A	12-22A	12-23E	12-24E
Net revenue (bn)	2,043	2,117	2,228	2,659
Revenue growth	15.7%	3.6%	5.3%	19.3%
Gross margin	18.4%	17.7%	18.9%	19.7%
EBITDA margin	19.6%	18.2%	21.3%	24.2%
Net profit (bn)	278	240	270	323
Net profit growth	92.1%	(13.5%)	12.6%	19.3%
Recurring profit growth	94.1%	(15.3%)	14.5%	20.1%
Basic EPS	3,396	2,937	3,306	3,946
Adjusted EPS	3,396	2,937	3,306	3,946
BVPS	15,376	18,802	21,342	23,876
ROAE	23.8%	17.2%	16.5%	17.5%

Source: VNDIRECT RESEARCH



## Valuation





Income statement			
(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22A	12-23E
Net revenue	2,043	2,117	2,228
Cost of sales	(1,668)	(1,743)	(1,807)
Gen & admin expenses	(72)	(64)	(74)
Selling expenses	(27)	(19)	(22)
Operating profit	277	290	325
Operating EBITDA	387	397	453
Depreciation and amortisation	(110)	(106)	(127)
Operating EBIT	277	290	325
Interest income	15	27	21
Financial expense	(9)	(48)	(42)
Net other income	2	1	5
Income from associates & JVs	0	0	0
Pre-tax profit	285	270	309
Tax expense	(7)	(29)	(39)
Minority interest	0	0	0
Net profit	278	240	270
Adj. net profit to ordinary	278	240	270
Ordinary dividends	(102)	(102)	(105)
Retained earnings	176	138	166

Cash flow statement			
(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22A	12-23E
Pretax profit	285	270	309
Depreciation & amortisation	110	106	127
Tax paid	(16)	(25)	(39)
Other adjustments	(12)	(3)	10
Change in working capital	(5)	(140)	(195)
Cash flow from operations	362	209	212
Capex	(24)	(48)	(450)
Proceeds from assets sales	26	0	0
Others	(5)	17	0
Other non-current assets changes	2	0	0
Cash flow from investing activities	(0)	(31)	(450)
New share issuance	0	142	142
Shares buyback	0	0	0
Net borrowings	52	(30)	(11)
Other financing cash flow	(40)	(138)	(38)
Dividends paid	(102)	(102)	(105)
Cash flow from financing activities	(90)	(129)	(11)
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	95	366	415
Total cash generated	271	49	(248)
Cash and equivalents at the end of period	366	415	167

Balance sheet			
(VNDbn)	12-21A	12-22A	12-23E
Cash and equivalents	366	415	167
Short term investments	0	0	45
Accounts receivables	88	224	266
Inventories	472	466	535
Other current assets	60	91	76
Total current assets	986	1,196	1,088
Fixed assets	831	772	1,010
Total investments	144	152	145
Other long-term assets	9	3	157
Total assets	1,969	2,123	2,400
Short-term debt	321	308	290
Accounts payable	291	220	87
Other current liabilities	99	56	87
Total current liabilities	712	584	464
Total long-term debt	0	0	178
Other liabilities	0	1	12
Share capital	707	844	844
Retained earnings reserve	558	696	861
Shareholders' equity	1,258	1,538	1,746
Minority interest			
Total liabilities & equity	1,969	2,123	2,400

Key ratios			
	12-21A	12-22A	12-23E
Dupont			
Net profit margin	13.6%	11.4%	12.1%
Asset turnover	1.11	1.03	0.99
ROAA	15.1%	11.7%	12.0%
Avg assets/avg equity	1.58	1.46	1.38
ROAE	23.8%	17.2%	16.5%
Efficiency			
Days account receivable	12.3	12.0	18.3
Days inventory	103.2	97.6	108.0
Days creditor	63.8	46.0	17.6
Fixed asset turnover	2.34	2.64	2.50
ROIC	17.6%	13.0%	12.2%
Liquidity			
Current ratio	1.4	2.0	2.3
Quick ratio	0.7	1.2	1.2
Cash ratio	0.5	0.7	0.5
Cash cycle	51.8	63.6	108.7
Growth rate (yoy)			
Revenue growth	15.7%	3.6%	5.3%
Operating profit growth	58.7%	4.9%	12.1%
Net profit growth	92.1%	(13.5%)	12.6%
EPS growth	92.1%	(13.5%)	12.6%

Source: VND RESEARCH



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#### RECOMMENDATION FRAMEWORK

Stock Ratings Definition:

Add The stock's total return is expected to reach 15% or higher over the next 12 months.

Hold The stock's total return is expected to be between negative 10% and positive 15% over the next 12 months.

Reduce The stock's total return is expected to fall below negative 10% over the next 12 months.

The total expected return of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net dividend yields of the stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.

Sector Ratings Definition:

Overweight An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute

recommendation.

Neutral A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute

recommendation.

Underweight An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute

recommendation.

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