EQUITIES RESEARCH



Thailand Asset Management Companies

Broad-based pressure from macro factors

- The 3Q23 AMC industry data showed signs of soft operating performance for companies despite the effect of seasonality, reflecting broad-based pressure from the muted economic recovery.
- The flush NPL supply this year has led operators to achieve growth in their loan-invested A/Rs, leading to a rise in gearing ratio and tight liquidity, which could limit the potential investment growth in A/Rs in 2024.
- We have a NEUTRAL view on the AMC sector and retain our HOLD call for JMT and BAM.

Dull operating performance in 3Q23

According to quarterly data from the Bank of Thailand (BoT), in 3Q23 an aggregation of 80 asset management companies (AMCs) in Thailand showed revenue from NPL management at THB6.37b, rising 1.76% q-q but dropping 1.77%. This implies an IRR on the aggregate loan investment (pre-allowance for ECL) of 8.56%, stable from 8.57% in 2Q23 despite 3Q usually being a strong quarter due to seasonality, and falling from 9.44% in 3Q22. The gain on NPAs was THB1.47b, exhibiting a decrease of 1.54% q-q but still achieving 15.52% y-y growth, showing signs of a q-q slowdown in NPA sales. The operating expense for the sector was THB2.45b (up 2.68% q-q and 11.7% y-y), mainly from a rise in staff costs (for business expansion). Meanwhile, the 3Q23 interest expense was at THB1.76b (up 1.38% q-q and 5.06% y-y), with the cost of funds at 4.16%, increasing from 3.93% in 3Q22 due to the market rate hikes. Excluding other income items, GPM and NPM were at 59.6% and 9.83%, respectively, significantly dropping from 63.54% and 24.15% a year ago on rising OPEX, a higher cost of funds, and flat revenue growth. The aggregate ROE, excluding other income, was 2.51%.

Growth in invested NPLs but with tight leverage

Total investment in Ioan A/Rs (before ECL adjustment) for the industry was THB296b in 3Q23, increasing 2.75% q-q and 8.67% y-y amid the backdrop of the abundant NPL supply throughout the year, causing a noticeable drop in companies' cash and equivalents. In 3Q23, companies' level of interest-bearing debt stood at THB170b, despite growth in Ioan receivables. We presume this was due to a financing trend via organic cash flow streams due to the plateaued levels of the aggregate D/E and IBD/E, which were at 1.94x and 1.77x, respectively, remaining relatively stable q-q but falling slightly y-y. We assume the average debt covenant for AMCs in Thailand to be within the range of 2-3x D/E, which we think will make companies more cautious in their gearing and put a specific limit on investment growth in 4Q23.

Negative 4Q23-2024 outlook for JMT and BAM persists

We have a NEUTRAL view of Thailand's AMC sector. The negative outlook on the industry-level data also showed in the performance of companies under our coverage. JMT and BAM experienced a q-q drop in net profit in 3Q23, rooted mainly in disappointing cash collection performance, especially within the secured loan segment. We expect AMCs under our coverage to deliver q-q growth in cash collection performance in 4Q23 from the seasonal effect, but post a y-y drop. We are concerned that the cash collection trend could continue to be vulnerable in 2024 due to the adverse impact of the disappointing pace of the domestic economic recovery. This, coupled with the stricter lending policy from commercial banks, should pressure companies' NPA sales and affect the bottom-line results.

Maintain HOLD call for JMT and BAM

We maintain our forecasts and our HOLD call on both JMT and BAM to reflect the persistent pressure on the industry's outlook. Our GGM-based valuation for JMT indicates a 2024 TP of THB30.5 based on -2 SD of its 5-year average P/BV, while for BAM, our NAV-based valuation yields a 2024 TP of THB8.75, implying a P/BV ratio of 0.7x.



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Dull sector performance in 3Q23

According to guarterly data from the BoT, in 3Q23 an aggregation of 80 AMCs in Thailand showed a revenue total of THB8.02b, flat q-q and up 27.26% y-y, mainly due to a spike in non-AMC-related income, causing PPOP to finish at THB5.56b (decreased by 1.96% g-g but increased by 35% y-y). Excluding non-AMC-related income of THB1.94b, the industry's 3Q23 aggregate revenue was THB6.08b, with the revenue from NPL management (interest income + gain on investment in receivables) at THB6.37b, rising 1.76% g-g but dropping 1.77% y-y. This implies an IRR on the aggregate loan investment (pre-allowance for ECL) of 8.56%, stable from 8.57% in 2Q23 despite 3Q usually being a strong quarter due to seasonality, and falling from 9.44% in 3Q22. The gain on NPAs was THB1.47b, exhibiting a decrease of 1.54% q-q but still achieving 15.52% y-y growth, showing signs of a q-q slowdown in NPA sales. The operating expense for the sector was THB2.45b (up 2.68% q-q and 11.7% y-y), mainly from a rise in staff costs (for business expansion). Meanwhile, the 3Q23 interest expense was at THB1.76b (up 1.38% q-q and 5.06% y-y), with the cost of funds at 4.16%, increasing from 3.93% in 3Q22 due to the market rate hikes. From now on, we expect cost of funding pressure to continue due to the maturity of vintage debentures (AMCs typically issue debentures that mature over three years) and higher rates on new issues.

The overall CIR finished at 30.61%, increasing from 29.64% in 2Q23 but falling significantly from 34.88% for non-AMC-related income, which also led to a rise in the GPM and NPM of the aggregate to 69.39% and 31.66%, respectively, compared to 65.12% and 27.43% in 3Q22. Excluding other income items, both ratios were at 59.6% and 9.83%, significantly dropping from 63.54% and 24.15% a year ago on rising OPEX, a higher cost of funds, and flat revenue growth. The aggregate ROE was 10.69%, excluding other income, was 2.51%.

Exhibit 1: Aggregate operating performance

Operating performance	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23
	(THB m)				
Revenue	6,026	7,504	5,134	6,006	6,075
Interest income from loan A/Rs	6,050	7,479	5,138	5,860	6,069
Gain from NPLs	376	462	179	280	193
Gain from NPAs	1,269	1,242	1,354	1,489	1,466
Interest expense	1,679	1,751	1,628	1,740	1,764
Operating expense	2,197	2,829	1,897	2,390	2,454

Sources: BoT; FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 2: Key operating performance (including non-AMC income)

	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Gross profit margin	65.12	68.30	66.44	70.36	69.39
Net profit margin	27.43	36.16	21.76	30.22	31.66
Cost-to-income	34.88	31.70	33.56	29.64	30.61
Return on assets	2.57	4.73	1.78	3.51	3.64
Return on equity	7.83	14.25	5.25	10.29	10.69

income) 3Q22 4Q22 1Q23 2Q23 30

Exhibit 3: Key operating performance (excluding non-AMC

	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Gross profit margin	63.54	62.30	63.05	60.21	59.60
Net profit margin	24.15	24.09	13.87	6.33	9.83
Cost-to-income	36.46	37.70	36.95	39.79	40.40
Return on assets	2.16	2.65	1.03	0.55	0.86
Return on equity	6.59	7.98	3.04	1.60	2.51

Sources: BoT; FSSIA's compilation

Sources: BoT; FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 4: OPEX and CIR ratio

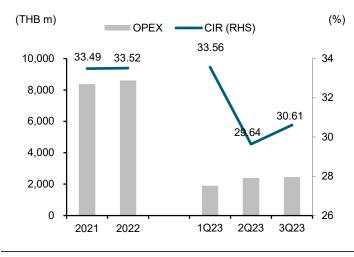
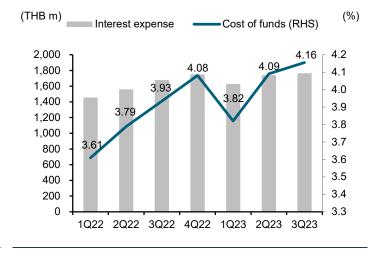


Exhibit 5: Interest expense and cost of funds



Sources: BoT; FSSIA's compilation

Sources: BoT; FSSIA's compilation

Growth in invested NPLs but with tight leverage

Total investment in Ioan A/Rs (before ECL adjustment) for the industry was THB296b in 3Q23, increasing 2.75% q-q and 8.67% y-y amid the backdrop of the abundant NPL supply throughout the year, causing a noticeable drop in companies' cash and equivalents, which finished at THB13.7b (dropped 12.32% q-q and 35.03% y-y). In 3Q23, companies' level of interest-bearing debt stood at THB170b, despite growth in Ioan receivables. We presume this was due to a financing trend via organic cash flow streams due to the plateaued levels of the aggregate D/E and IBD/E, which were at 1.94x and 1.77x, respectively, remaining relatively stable q-q but falling slightly y-y. We assume the average debt covenant for AMCs in Thailand to be within the range of 2-3x D/E, which we think will make companies more cautious in their gearing and put a specific limit on investment growth in 4Q23.

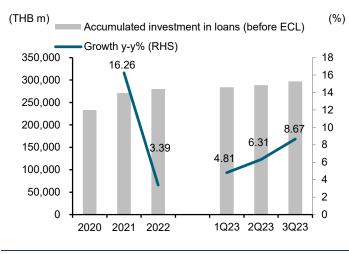
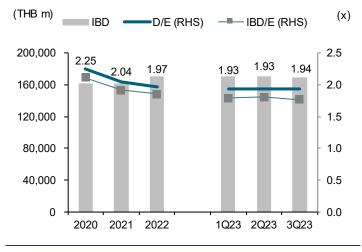


Exhibit 6: Accumulated investment in loans

Sources: BoT; FSSIA's compilation





Sources: BoT; FSSIA's compilation

Negative 4Q23-2024 outlook for JMT and BAM persists

We have a NEUTRAL view of Thailand's AMC sector. The negative outlook on the industry-level data also showed in the performance of companies under our coverage. JMT and BAM experienced a q-q drop in net profit in 3Q23, rooted mainly in disappointing cash collection performance, especially within the secured loan segment. We expect AMCs under our coverage to deliver q-q growth in cash collection performance in 4Q23 from the seasonal effect, but post a y-y drop. We are concerned that the cash collection trend could continue to be vulnerable in 2024 due to the adverse impact of the disappointing pace of the domestic economic recovery, weighing on household's purchasing power and debt repayment capability. This, coupled with the stricter lending policy from commercial banks, should pressure companies' NPA sales and affect the bottom-line results, especially BAM's with its secured loan-heavy portfolio (25% of NPA income in 9M23).

Exhibit 8: Peer comparison of AMCs under coverage

			JMT					BAM		
	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23
Year-end Dec 31	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)						
Revenue	1,101	1,142	1,150	1,250	1,308	2,612	2,788	2,005	2,391	2,328
Change q-q %	1.24	3.78	0.64	8.67	4.67	(4.42)	6.74	(28.07)	19.25	(2.63)
Change y-y %	16.01	8.73	6.58	14.91	18.81	(0.54)	(10.27)	(1.16)	(12.49)	(10.86)
Interest expense	51	94	95	109	130	672	694	693	722	735
Change q-q %	(22.03)	83.30	0.87	14.91	18.87	3.16	3.22	(0.10)	4.18	1.80
Change y-y %	(39.61)	(5.42)	32.96	65.66	152.54	4.34	10.20	11.82	10.82	9.37
Operating expense	175	242	187	196	205	692	861	684	742	777
Change q-q %	(10.87)	38.44	(22.71)	4.83	4.23	(6.02)	24.42	(20.54)	8.40	4.79
Change y-y %	19.64	29.81	6.41	(0.02)	16.91	(3.09)	13.56	14.48	0.71	12.30
Net profit	456	490	453	551	466	716	866	267	425	383
Change q-q %	5.13	7.52	(7.50)	21.62	(15.38)	(13.82)	21.04	(69.24)	59.50	(9.96)
Change y-y %	29.53	2.67	23.47	27.16	2.36	24.21	(12.18)	(14.52)	(48.81)	(46.52)
Key financial highlights										
Investment during period	536	2,903	1,384	2,702	2,294	379	4,962	2,650	4,723	5,431
Change q-q %	42.91	442.01	(52.32)	95.21	(15.08)	(72.75)	1,209.23	(46.59)	78.23	14.99
Change y-y %	(85.84)	84.46	90.22	620.93	328.39	(72.50)	35.46	96.73	239.54	1,332.98
Cash collection	1,416	1,337	1,369	1,561	1,330	4,429	5,293	3,221	4,127	3,862
Change q-q %	5.91	(5.58)	2.39	14.02	(14.80)	12.08	19.51	(39.14)	28.14	(6.44)
Change y-y %	14.10	(2.41)	(6.10)	16.75	(6.07)	13.58	7.63	1.99	4.45	(12.81)
Key financial ratio										
D/E (x)	0.27	0.47	0.38	0.53	0.52	2.01	2.04	2.06	2.10	2.15
IBD/E (x)	0.24	0.41	0.30	0.45	0.42	1.94	1.96	1.94	2.03	2.00
Cost-to-income ratio (x)	15.89	21.20	16.28	15.71	15.64	26.50	30.90	34.13	31.02	33.39

Sources: Company data; FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 9: Peer comparison of leverage ratios and covenants

		JMT				
	2022	2Q23	3Q23		2022	
	(x)	(x)	(x)		(x)	
Covenant on debentures (IBD/E)	3.00	3.00	3.00	Covenant on debentures	n/a	
ovenant on loans	n/a	n/a	n/a	Covenant on loans (D/E)	3.00	
/E	0.47	0.53	0.52	D/E	2.04	
BD/E	0.41	0.45	0.42	IBD/E	1.96	

Sources: Company data; FSSIA's compilation

Maintain HOLD call for both JMT and BAM

We maintain our forecasts and our HOLD call on both JMT and BAM to reflect the persistent pressure on the industry's outlook. Our GGM-based valuation for JMT indicates a 2024 TP of THB30.5 based on -2 SD of its 5-year average P/BV, while for BAM, our NAV-based valuation yields a 2024 TP of THB8.75, implying a P/BV ratio of 0.7x.



Exhibit 10: JMT - one-year prospective P/BV band

Exhibit 12: BAM – one-year prospective P/BV band



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates



Exhibit 13: BAM – one-year prospective PER band

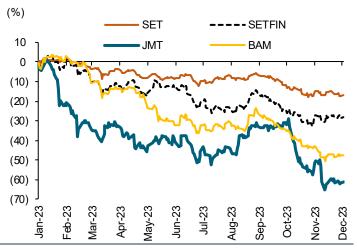
Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 14: Price performance comparison table, as of 4 December 2023

	Last close	5D	1M	3M	6M	YTD
	(THB)*	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
SET	1,385.11	(1.16)	(2.43)	(10.51)	(9.53)	(16.99)
SET FIN	3,379.17	(0.04)	(0.22)	(12.66)	(16.70)	(27.38)
JMT	27.25*	0.00	(19.26)	(40.76)	(30.57)	(60.51)
BAM	8.45*	0.60	(2.31)	(25.22)	(21.03)	(46.52)

Exhibit 15: Price performance comparison chart, as of 4 December 2023



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA's compilation

Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 16: Peer comparison, as of 4 December 2023

Company name	BBG	Rec	Share	Target	Up	PE		PB	v	RC	DE	Div	yld
	code		price	price	side	23E	24E	23E	24E	23E	24E	23E	24E
			(LCY)	(LCY)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(X)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)
JMT Network Services	JMT TB	HOLD	27.00	30.50	13	19.2	16.7	1.5	1.5	8.3	8.9	4.2	4.8
Bangkok Commercial AM	BAM TB	HOLD	8.30	8.75	5	18.0	15.0	0.6	0.6	3.5	4.1	3.9	4.5
Chayo Group*	CHAYO TB	n/a	5.45	n/a	n/a	18.0	14.7	1.3	1.2	8.5	8.3	2.1	2.5
Knight Club Capital AM*	KCC TB	n/a	4.16	n/a	n/a	23.0	15.9	2.2	1.9	9.6	12.4	n/a	n/a
Chase Asia PCL*	CHASE TB	n/a	1.97	n/a	n/a	28.1	19.7	1.2	1.1	5.3	5.8	1.5	2.0
Average						21.3	16.4	1.4	1.3	7.0	7.9	2.9	3.5

Sources: *Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Disclaimer for ESG scoring

ESG score	Methodology			Rating					
The Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (<u>DJSI</u>) By S&P Global	process based on the from the annual S&P Only the top-ranked c inclusion.	ompanies within each ind	ability Scores resulting ability Assessment (CSA). ustry are selected for	Sustainability ESG Score of scoring compa selected from	Assessment less than 45 ⁰ iny are disqu the Eligible L		I. Companie: Global ESG : nstituents of	s with an S&P Score of the hi the DJSI indic	ighest
Sustainability Investment List (<u>THSI</u>) by The Stock Exchange of Thailand (<u>SET</u>)	managing business w Candidates must pass 1) no irregular trading float of >150 sharehol up capital. Some key 70%; 2) independent wrongdoing related to	of the board members an	nance, updated annually. vith two crucial conditions: d executives; and 2) free ng must be >15% of paid- de: 1) CG score of below lation; 3) executives' tal impacts; 4) equity in	during the ass nature of the r <u>SETTHSI Inde</u> capitalization > >0.5% of paid Index is a mar	% for each in essment yea elevant indus ≥ x is extende ≥ THB5b (~U up capital for ket capitalisa	usion, verified ndicator, unles r. The scoring stry and materia d from the THS SD150b); 2) fr r at least 9 out tition-weighted number of stocl	s the compa will be fairly ality. SI companie ee float >20 ⁶ of 12 month index, cap 5	iny is a part of weighted agai s whose 1) ma %; and 3) liquid is. The SETTH	nst the arket dity ISI
CG Score by Thai Institute of Directors Association (<u>Thai IOD</u>)	annually by the Thai l	ength in sustainable deve DD, with support from the esults are from the perspe tions.	Stock Exchange of	Good (80-89), and not rated equitable treat	3 for Good (for scores be ment of shar 25%); 4) disc	egories: 5 for E 70-79), 2 for Fa low 50. Weight eholders (weig closure & trans	air (60-69), 1 tings include ht 25% com	l for Pass (60- e: 1) the rights; bined); 3) the i	69), 2) and role of
AGM level By Thai Investors Association (TIA) with support from the SEC	treatment are incorpor transparent and suffic out of five the CG com assessment criteria cr the meeting date (45% advance circulation of suf rights can be exercised. T transparency and verifiab	ponents to be evaluated over AGM procedures bef	ions and information is mportant elements of two annually. The ore the meeting (45%), at 10%). (The first assesses 1) and 2) facilitating how voting ase of attending meetings; 2). . The third involves the	The scores ar Very Good (90		nto four catego air (80-89), and			
Thai CAC By Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)	establishment of key of policies. The Certifica (Companies deciding to b Declaration of Intent to kin Certification, including riss	k assessment, in place of polic s, establishment of whistleblov	ng and developing of s. er start by submitting a submit the CAC Checklist for by and control, training of	passed Check approvals who	list will move se members	wed by a comr for granting ce are twelve hig l achievements	ertification by hly respecte	y the CAC Cou	ıncil
<u>Morningstar</u> Sustainalytics	based on an assessm risk is unmanaged. So regulatory filings, news an	SG risk rating provides an ent of how much of a com urces to be reviewed include ad other media, NGO reports/0	pany's exposure to ESG corporate publications and websites, multi-sector	A company's f more risk is ur NEGL					he
	information, company fee reports, and quality & pee	dback, ESG controversies, iss r reviews.	suer feedback on draft ESG	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40+	
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MSCI	weights on a rolling qu MSCI ESG ratings ain identify industry leade AAA 8.571-7 A 7.143- A 5.714- BBB 4.286- BB 2.857-	arterly basis. n to measure a company's rs and laggards according 0.000 8.570 7.142 5.713 Average: 4.285	s management of financially g to their exposure to ESG r leading its industry in r a mixed or unexception	isks and how we	I they managed	ge those risks r	relative to pe unities	ers.	
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<u>Moody's ESG</u> solutions Refinitiv ESG	weights on a rolling qu MSCI ESG ratings ain identify industry leade AAA 8.571-7 AA 7.143- A 5.714-7 BBB 4.286- BB 2.857- B 1.429- CCC 0.000- Moody's assesses the believes that a compa create sustainable val Designed to transpare based on publicly ava	arterly basis. In to measure a company's rs and laggards according and aggards according basis according basis bas	s management of financially to their exposure to ESG r leading its industry in r a mixed or unexception industry peers lagging its industry bas ies take into account ESG o s into its business model ar	isks and how we nanaging the most : nal track record of n sed on its high expo objectives in the d relatively output SG performance, 100 on relative I	I they managed significant ESG hanaging the m sure and failure definition and erforming its commitment ESG perform	ge those risks r i risks and opport oost significant ES e to manage sign d implementation peers is better t and effectiver ance and insuf	relative to pe unities GG risks and op ificant ESG ris on of their str positioned to ress across ficient degree	ers. pportunities relat ks rategy policies o mitigate risks 10 main theme	ive to . It s and es,
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Rating regarding the sustainable development of Thai listed companies, both on the SET and MAI, are publicly available on the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC). Currently, ratings available are 1) "CG Score"; 2) "AGM Level"; 3) "Thai CAC"; and 4) THSI. The ratings are updated on an annual basis. FSSIA does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such ratings. Source: FSSIA's compilation

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Usanee Liurut, CISA FSS International Investment Advisory Securities Co., Ltd

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History of change in investment rating and/or target price



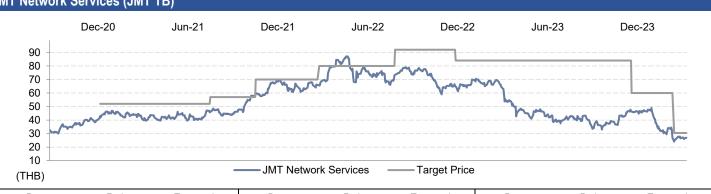
Date	Rating	Target price	Date	Rating	Target price	Date	Rating	Target price
10-Feb-2021 17-May-2021 03-Aug-2021 05-Nov-2021	BUY BUY BUY BUY	24.00 20.60 19.40 22.00	20-Dec-2021 08-Aug-2022 02-Nov-2022 02-Oct-2023	BUY BUY BUY BUY	25.50 22.00 20.00 14.00	02-Nov-2023 14-Nov-2023	HOLD HOLD	9.50 8.75

Usanee Liurut, CISA started covering this stock from 02-Oct-2023

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

JMT Network Services (JMT TB)



Date	Rating	Target price	Date	Rating	Target price	Date	Rating	Target price
02-Mar-2021 07-Sep-2021 24-Nov-2021	BUY BUY BUY	52.00 57.00 70.00	11-Mar-2022 21-Jul-2022 02-Nov-2022	BUY BUY BUY	80.00 92.00 84.00	31-Aug-2023 10-Nov-2023	BUY HOLD	60.00 30.50

Usanee Liurut, CISA started covering this stock from 31-Aug-2023

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates



Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
Bangkok Commercial Asset Mngt.	BAM TB	THB 8.30	HOLD	Downside risks to our NAV-based TP include 1) lower cash collection than estimated; 2) lower-than-expected bad debt acquisition; and 3) a slowdown in the property market. Upsides include 1) better-than-expected economic conditions and debt repayment momentum; and 2) an acceleration in the demand for NPAs.
JMT Network Services	JMT TB	THB 27.00	HOLD	Downside risks to our P/BV-based TP include 1) lower cash collection from both debt management and debt tracking collection services; and 2) higher-than-expected funding costs and operating expenses. Upside risks includes 1) better-than-expected purchasing power and cash collection 2) lower-than-expected operating and financing expense

Source: FSSIA estimates

Additional Disclosures

Target price history, stock price charts, valuation and risk details, and equity rating histories applicable to each company rated in this report is available in our most recently published reports. You can contact the analyst named on the front of this note or your representative at Finansia Syrus Securities Public Company Limited.

All share prices are as at market close on 04-Dec-2023 unless otherwise stated.

RECOMMENDATION STRUCTURE

Stock ratings

Stock ratings are based on absolute upside or downside, which we define as (target price* - current price) / current price.

BUY (B). The upside is 10% or more.

HOLD (H). The upside or downside is less than 10%.

REDUCE (R). The downside is 10% or more.

Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on market price and the formal recommendation.

* In most cases, the target price will equal the analyst's assessment of the current fair value of the stock. However, if the analyst doesn't think the market will reassess the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the target price may differ from fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the mismatch between current market price and our assessment of current fair value.

Industry Recommendations

Overweight. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be positive over the next 12 months. **Neutral.** The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be maintained over the next 12 months. **Underweight.** The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be negative over the next 12 months.

Country (Strategy) Recommendations

Overweight (O). Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on two or more of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

Neutral (N). Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on one of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

Underweight (U). Over the next 12 months, the analyst does not expect the market to score positively on any of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.