YES SECURITIES INSTITUTIONAL EQUITIES

V-Mart Retail

BUY CMP Rs2,498 Target Rs2,400 Downside 4%

3Q investor call takeaways

Underlying demand still weak, good work on cash flows and margins; expect some correction post recent run-up

- Our view After the recent run-up, we believe some correction can be expected in the near term with underlying demand still exhibiting weakness, competition not reducing significantly and some pressure on margins expected with normalization of costs and yarn inflation. While the medium to long term outlook remains strong with V-Mart expected to gain market share and successfully scale up its presence in new geographies, current valuations look rich. We would suggest waiting for corrections for fresh entry in the stock. The upcoming equity fund raise can also lead to some correction. We maintain our estimates for now with a TP of Rs 2,400 based on 40x FY23E earnings.
- Management commentary Industry situation has improved significantly as festive demand was good and social events have restarted; frequency of visits from shoppers remained low but average bill size increased; farmer income increased but spending still cautious given uncertainties; urban businesses also coming back to normalcy gradually; winter portfolio did well supported by good marriage season but still not fully normalized; small unorganized apparel retailers under pressure due to supply chain, liquidity and social distancing issues; some regional retailers also faced inventory and cash flow issues; national retailers continued to expand footprint; e-com following discounting strategy.
- ✓ Quarter highlights Smaller towns have fared relatively better than larger cities, operational restrictions in few states even in Oct-Nov; festive period muted in October but recovered sharply around Diwali and winter season; seeing some slowdown again towards late December post marriage season; sharp reduction in inventory from 550 to 360cr yoy in beginning of quarter but still did decent sales; reduced discounting and promotional activities; ASP up 2%, avg bill size up 16%, conversion rate high at 62%; gross margins up 40bps given fresh inventory and high pricing power; per store inventory lower by 35% without aggressive liquidation, shrinkage normalized to 0.9%, 11cr capex in 3Q and 17cr in 9M, 100cr cash on books; restarted expense normalization (21 cr rental savings in 9M); scaling up and streamlining online operations, still less than 1% of sales.
- ✓ **Demand outlook** Full recovery is still some time away for fashion consumption, could reach 84% of normal sales despite multiple tailwinds like good festive, winter and marriage season indicating some underlying weakness given smaller size of social gatherings and need-based buying; but don't see long term impact on demand.
- Regional competition Consistent execution and growth discipline remain key competitive advantages.
- ✓ New store formats Pilots being run for last year in 6-7 locations for new formats; new stores will be opened in new formats – Value Dialup format for Tier 4 towns is a value pricing format and Fashion Dialup is a fresh look and feel; will gradually refurbish all stores under new format.
- ✓ Employee cost No reduction in salaries but company did not fill up some positions at store level which will gradually increase now but still remain below historical levels.

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- Margin outlook Difficult to expand significantly as employee increments will be given and RM cost pressures will also increase given rising yarn and fabric prices.
- ✓ Inventory outlook Currently working at all-time low inventory, will rebuild it gradually albeit will remain lower than historical levels.
- ✓ Store expansion Will maintain long-term trajectory at annual increase of 20-25% in retail area.

V-Mart Retail 3QFY21 results

- ✓ **Result summary** While topline was below expectations, strong margin performance led to an earnings beat; revenue/EBITDA/PAT decline of 16%/11%/18% respectively.
- ✓ **Topline** Revenue decline was 16% for the quarter, led by a decent recovery in the festive, winter and marriage season albeit it fell short of our expectations.
- ✓ Margins Margins surprised positively with an uptick of 130bps to 22.1% with stable gross margins and benefits of cut down in discretionary spends, indicating better sales mix and lower than expected discounting.
- Footprint expansion The company has opened net 10 stores during the quarter, taking the total store count to 274.

Exhibit 1: Result summary

YE March (Rs mn)	3QFY21	3QFY20	2QFY21	y-y (%)	q-q (%)
Net Revenues	4,700	5,622	1,755	(16.4)	167.8
Purchase of traded goods	2,975	3,581	1,250	(16.9)	138.0
(% of sales)	63.3	63.7	71.2	(==)	
Employee cost	325	406	300	(20.0)	8.1
(% of sales)	6.9	7.2	17.1	, ,	
Others	362	467	208	(22.5)	74.0
(% of sales)	7.7	8.3	11.9		
EBITDA	1,039	1,168	-3	(11.1)	nm
EBITDA margin (%)	22.1	20.8	(0.2)		
Other income	3	4	150	(33.7)	(98.1)
PBIDT	1,041	1,172	147	(11.2)	609.7
Depreciation	254	245	257	3.7	(1.4)
Interest	150	158	147	(4.9)	2.4
PBT	637	770	-257	(17.2)	nm
Тах	158	188	-68	(15.5)	nm
ETR (%)	24.9	24.4	26.3		
Adjusted PAT	479	582	-190	(17.7)	nm
PATAMI margin	10.2	10.4	(10.8)		
Extraordinary income/ (exp.)	-	-	-		
Reported PAT	478.9	582.2	-189.6	(17.7)	nm
No. of shares (mn)	18.1	18.1	18.1		
Adj EPS (Rs)	26.4	32.1	(10.5)		



V-Mart Retail

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