



Featured Stock: ECL

Express Catering Limited (ECL) Opening price — \$6.24
Price to Book — 17.45 times; P/E — 19.36 times

Express Catering Limited (ECL) is a Jamaican company established in 2001, to primarily supply food and beverage operations at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. Operating as a subsidiary of Margaritaville St. Lucia Inc., ECL currently has a combined allocated space of over 32,000 square feet across the airport, supported by ten international and four local brands.

Express Catering Limited (ECL) posted a 12% increase in revenue to US\$4.54 million (2018: US\$4.06 million) for the first quarter ended August 31, 2019. Despite a 13% increase in cost of sales, the Company's gross profit rose 11% during the three month period to US\$3.31 million relative to US\$2.97 million for the comparable quarter in the prior year. Total expenses for the first three months increased by 13% to US\$2.21 million in Q1 2019, up from US\$1.94 million in Q1 2018. This upward movement was associated with a 14% increase in administrative expenses to US\$2.04 million from US\$1.79 million in 2018. According to the company, "a total of US\$2.05 million in aggregate was expended on Administrative and promotional expenses at a rate of 45.18% of revenue compared to US\$1.80 million a rate 44.41% in the prior year. Maintenance rate increase in effect since October 2018 is responsible for the comparative change." Notably, a foreign exchange gain of US\$12,636 was booked for the quarter compared to a foreign exchange loss of US\$4,398 booked the prior corresponding period. Total comprehensive profit for the quarter increasing by 11% from US\$937,891 in 2018 to US\$1.04 million.

ECL (as at Friday November 08, 2019) was trading at 17.45 times its book value with a P/E of 19.36 times.

Our weekly pick features a stock currently held in the Mayberry Managed Equity Portfolio (MMEP). For more information on the MMEP, please contact your investment advisor today.



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