



LASF

Lasco Financial Services Limited
(LASF)

Opening price— \$2.69

Price to book— 1.63 times

P/E— 10.45 times

Week to Date: -5.14%



Month to Date: -6.45%



Quarter to Date: -6.45%



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.

LASCO Financial Services Limited (LASF) main business activities are (1) money transfer within Jamaica, as well as transactions to and from Jamaica to the world; (2) currency exchange; (3) consumer loans to salaried borrowers and (4) business loans and support to micro and small businesses. Its target market is the banked and marginally banked with the aim of bringing them further opportunities for financial inclusion.

Lasco Financial Services Limited (LASF), for the six months ended September 30, 2022 recorded trading income of \$1.12 billion, this represents an increase of 4% when compared to \$1.08 billion posted at the end of 2021 while trading income for the second quarter amounted to \$584.57 million (2021: \$519.69 million). Other income decreased to \$63.32 million versus \$63.53 million in 2021. This resulted in overall income of \$1.19 billion, a growth of 4%. Operating expenses amounted to \$900.10 million, compared to \$856.83 million booked in the year prior. Finance costs decreased to \$54.72 million (2021: \$93.35 million), resulting in a profit before tax of \$233.07 million, 20% up from \$194.74 million booked in 2021. Taxes for the period amounted to \$76.32 million (2021: \$61.15 million). Net profit closed the period under review at \$156.75 million, up from \$133.59 million posted the same period last year. Net profit for the quarter amounted to \$73.97 million relative to 2021 second quarter net profit of \$58.61 million.

Management noted, “During the second quarter, we extended our LASCO Gold Visa debit card pilot to the general public, offering the service through our Remittance agent network and via the LASCO Gold Mobile app (in the Google Playstore). We are pleased with customer response so far and expect to increase market activity over the next two quarters to ensure that we maximize on the opportunities. Unbanked customers can benefit greatly from the LASCO Gold Visa debit card (prepaid) as they will be able to load their cards with funds and conduct transactions seamlessly at points of sales and online, including cross border.”

LASF (as at Friday January 20, 2023) was trading at 1.63 times its book value with a P/E of 10.45 times.

