



Distributors Limited

LASD

Lasco Distributors Limited (LASD);

Opening price— \$4.23

Price to book— 1.68 times;

P/E— 10.09 times

Week to Date: 3.17%



Month to Date: 5.49%



Quarter to Date: 20.86%



Year to Date: 63.32%



LASCO Distributors Limited is a leading distribution company in Jamaica. The company was established over 30 years ago and in a relatively short time it rapidly increased its market presence by offering quality products at competitive prices to the market for local and international brands, as well as its own private brands. The company is comprised of two divisions: the Consumer division and the Pharmaceutical division.

LASD for the first quarter ended June 30, 2023, reported a 17% increase in revenue totalling \$7.31 billion compared to \$6.26 billion in the corresponding three months last year. Cost of Sales amounted to \$5.98 billion (2022: \$5.18 billion). Consequently, gross profit increased by 25% to \$1.34 billion compared to \$1.07 billion in 2022. Operating Expenses amounted to \$806.17 million, a 12% increase relative to \$718.03 million reported in 2022. Profit from Operations amounted to \$602.10 million versus \$382.57 million reported in 2022. Profit before taxation for the first quarter amounted to \$601.98 million, a 57% increase relative to \$382.36 million reported in 2022. Taxation had a 169% increase to reach \$154.40 million (2022: \$57.48 million). Net Profit for the three months amounted to \$447.58 million, a 38% increase from the \$324.89 million reported in 2022. Total Comprehensive Income increased by 20% to total \$460.25 million (2022: \$383.12 million).

According to The Gleaner, “The company has pumped some US\$75 million into equipment and technologies over the past decade to slash costs and improve efficiencies. Managing Director John De Silva says the company has already started to see improvements in its operations from the new management system, which forms part of the company’s digital transformation initiative.”

LASD (as at Friday August 18, 2023) was trading at 1.68 times its book value with a P/E of 10.09 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.

