

FEATURED STOCK



Lasco Distributors Limited

(LASD);

Opening price—\$4.24

Price to book—1.51 times:

P/E-10.89 times

Week to Date: -3.65%



Month to Date: -3.65%



Quarter to Date: -6.88%



Year to Date: 12.45%



Our weekly pick features a stock currently held in the **Mayberry Managed Equity** Portfolio (MMEP). For more information on the MMEP, please contact your investLASCO Distributors Limited, a premier distribution company in Jamaica, has established a strong market presence over the past 30 years. The company has rapidly grown by offering high -quality products at competitive prices, catering to both local and international brands, as well as its own private labels. LASCO Distributors operates through two main divisions: the Consumer Division, which focuses on food, beverages, personal care, and household products, and the Pharmaceutical Division, which distributes a wide range of healthcare products. This strategic approach has solidified LASCO's reputation for excellence and reliability in the distribution sector.

LASCO Distributors Limited (LASD) for the six months ended September 30, 2024, reported a 3% increase in revenue, totaling \$14.97 billion compared to \$14.54 billion in the same period last year. The cost of sales rose by 3% year-over-year to \$12.30 billion, up from \$11.91 billion in 2023. Consequently, gross profit saw a modest increase of 1%, reaching \$2.67 billion compared to \$2.64 billion for the same period in 2023. Operating expenses for the six months amounted to \$1.92 billion, marking a 10% increase from \$1.75 billion reported in the previous year. Profit from operations decreased by 12% to \$880.97 million, down from \$997.29 million in 2023. Finance costs surged by 563% to \$1.67 million, compared to \$251,000 last year. As a result, profit before taxation fell by 12% to \$879.31 million, from \$997.04 million in 2023. Taxation expenses decreased by 21%, totaling \$161.12 million, down from \$204.31 million in the previous year. Net profit for the period amounted to \$718.18 million, reflecting a 9% decrease from the \$792.73 million reported in 2023. Total comprehensive income for the six months ended September 30, 2024, was \$731.14 million, an 8% decline from \$796.73 million in the same period last year.

LASD Management noted, "The demand for our portfolio remains robust both domestically and in our export markets. We are committed to maintaining our market investment while expanding our distribution channels. We continue to take proactive steps to enhance our product supply and accelerate innovation, ensuring sustained growth."

LASD (as at Friday December 06, 2024) was trading at 1.51 times its book value with a P/E of 10.89 times.





