Featured Stock

LASM

Lasco Manufacturing Limited (LASM);

Opening price— $7.68;

Price to book— 1.81 times;

P/E— 11.30 times

Week to Date:	-1.71%
Month to Date:	-3.20%
Quarter to Date:	21.44%
Year to Date:	33.27%

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 Manufacturing Limited (LASM) is a leading manufacturer and distributor of consumer products in Jamaica. Established as part of the LASCO Group, the company produces a wide range of food, beverage, and pharmaceutical products for local and regional markets. Its modern manufacturing facility enables high-volume production of popular brands such as LASCO Food Drink, soy-based beverages, and other powdered drink mixes. LASM's strong distribution network and focus on affordable, high-quality products have made it a trusted name in households across Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

LASCO Manufacturing Limited (LASM) delivered a solid start to FY2027 for the three months ended 30 June 2026, supported by organic revenue growth, improved gross margins, and continued investment in productive capacity. Despite foreign exchange pressures and temporarily higher logistics costs, the company maintained strong profitability, demonstrating the resilience of its manufacturing model.

Revenue increased by 7% year-on-year to J$3.13 billion, compared with J$2.92 billion in the prior-year quarter. Gross profit rose by 9% to J$1.22 billion, outpacing revenue growth, while gross margin improved by approximately 70 basis points to 39.1%. The stronger margin performance reflects continued focus on cost management and operating efficiency despite a challenging external environment.

Operating expenses increased by 16% to J$443.4 million, mainly due to foreign exchange losses and temporary increases in logistics costs. Nevertheless, operating profit advanced by 5% to J$885.3 million, with the operating margin remaining strong at 28.3% compared with 28.8% in the prior year. Finance costs increased to J$19.1 million from J$1.6 million, contributing to a more moderate increase in profit before taxation to J$866.2 million from J$840.0 million.

At the bottom line, net profit increased by 9% to J$674.1 million, compared with J$618.3 million in the corresponding period, while earnings per stock unit improved to J$0.16 from J$0.15. The net profit margin remained robust at approximately 21.5%, highlighting LASM's ability to preserve strong earnings despite higher operating and financing costs.

Strategically, LASM continues to focus on sustainable volume growth, margin expansion, and investment in its manufacturing capabilities. The company reported approximately J$1.35 billion in prepayments for specialised capital equipment, while its long-term loan increased to approximately J$972 million, partly reflecting financing for its ongoing capital expenditure programme. These investments signal continued commitment to strengthening productive capacity and supporting future growth.

Management is also integrating sustainability more deeply into its operations and long-term planning, with initiatives focused on energy conservation, renewable energy, waste reduction, packaging optimisation, and water stewardship. Looking ahead, LASM remains focused on allocating resources toward initiatives that support volume growth and margin expansion while navigating geopolitical, trade, supply-chain, and weather-related risks.

LASM's first-quarter performance, therefore, reflects a business continuing to grow while investing for its next phase of development.

LASM (as at Friday September 11th, 2026) was trading at 1.81 times its book value with a P/E of 11.30 times.