RESULT REPORT Q3 FY24 | Sector: Energy

Petronet LNG Ltd

In line volumes, use or pay one off income drives the reported profitability

Our View

Petronet LNG's Q3FY24 revealed a mixed performance with a 10.4% YoY drop in adjusted revenue, while re-gasified volumes saw a commendable 39% YoY increase. However, EBITDA and PAT experienced declines of 35% and 37% YoY. Dahej terminal played a crucial role in India's LNG imports, accounting for about 86.1% of the total and having ~98% Dahej terminal utilization. Despite this notable increase, the adjusted gross margin has seen a reduction. The higher expenses and the profitability were primarily driven by use or pay one off income and expenses. The stock price has had a sharp rally, we downgrade the rating to a *SELL* from *REDUCE* earlier, with a TP of Rs229, valuing the stock at 10x PER.

Result Highlights

- Adjusted Performance: Petronet's adjusted revenue was down 10.4% YoY but up 12.8% QoQ, to Rs141.4bn; its EBITDA was down 35% YoY and 10% QoQ, to Rs11bn; its PAT was down 37% YoY, 10% QoQ, to Rs7.4bn. The other expenses at Rs 3.7bn; was up 87% YoY and 125% QoQ. Overall volumes are in line to our estimates, EBITDA and PAT are lower on higher opex due to use or pay provisions.
- Volumes: The total re-gasified volumes were higher by 39% YoY and 4% QoQ, to 232tbtu, of which 218tbtu was from Dahej (at ~98% utilization), 14tbtu from Kochi (at 22% utilization). In terms of volume break-up, Dahej's 104btu is long-term, flat YoY and up 2% QoQ, spot 4tbtu and Service 110tbtu, up 134% YoY and 7.8% QoQ.
- India imported ~269tbtu of LNG (per PPAC volumes) in the quarter. Petronet's share was at ~86.1% on stronger Dahej terminal utilization (86% the quarter prior, 64% a year ago).
- The adjusted gross margin was Rs65.5/mmbtu; Opex was higher at Rs 18.2/mmbtu while EBITDA was Rs47.2/mmbtu (Rs54.5 and Rs49.5 the previous quarter).
- 9MFY24 performance: Overall volumes was at 685tbtu vs 567tbtu in 9MFY23. Dahej volumes at 645tbtu was up 21% YoY; Kochi at 40tbtu up 14.3% YoY. EBITDA at Rs 34.9bn vs Rs 39.1bn in 9MFY23; PAT at Rs 23.5bn vs Rs 26.3bn in 9MFY23.

Valuation

We believe earnings would record a ~2% CAGR over FY23-26, driven by the Dahej utilisation and a further ramp-up at Kochi. We downgrade the rating to a SELL from REDUCE earlier, with a TP of Rs229, valuing the stock at 10x PER.

Exhibit 1: Actual vs estimate

| D | Do wan Astron | | Estimate | | riation | Remarks | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| Rs mn | Actual | YES Sec | Consensus | YES Sec | Consensus | Kemarks | |
| Sales | 141,372 | 147,103 | 129,469 | -3.90% | 9.19% | In line volumes. | |
| EBITDA | 10,960 | 13,596 | 12,108 | -19.39% | -9.48% | higher opex; use | |
| EBITDA Margin (%) | 7.75% | 9.24% | 9.35% | -149bps | -160bps | or pay one off income drives | |
| Adjusted PAT | 7,388 | 9,533 | 8,104 | -22.50% | -8.83% | the reported profitability | |



| Reco | : | SELL |
|------------------|---|--------|
| СМР | : | Rs 268 |
| Target Price | : | Rs 229 |
| Potential Return | : | -14.6% |

Stock data (as on Jan 30, 2024)

| Nifty | 21,522 |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 52 Week h/I (Rs) | 285 / 192 |
| Market cap (Rs/USD mn) | 394425 / 4746 |
| Outstanding Shares (mn) | 1,500 |
| 6m Avg t/o (Rs mn): | 856 |
| Div yield (%): | 4.6 |
| Bloomberg code: | PLNG IN EQUITY |
| NSE code: | PETRONET |

Stock performance



Shareholding pattern (As of Dec '23 end)

| Promoter | 50.0% |
|----------|-------|
| FII+DII | 39.2% |
| Others | 10.8% |

Δ in stance

| (1-Yr) | New | Old |
|--------------|------|--------|
| Rating | SELL | REDUCE |
| Target Price | 229 | 229 |

Δ in estimates

| (1-Yr) | FY24e | FY25e | FY26E |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| EPS (New) | 20.9 | 21.9 | 22.9 |
| EPS (Old) | 20.9 | 21.9 | 22.9 |
| % Change | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Financial Summary

| (Rs bn) | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Revenue | 587.9 | 548.6 | 515.1 |
| | | | |
| YoY Growth | (1.8) | (6.7) | (6.1) |
| EBIDTA | 47.3 | 49.5 | 51.8 |
| OPM % | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.1 |
| PAT | 31.3 | 32.8 | 34.3 |
| YoY Growth | (3.3) | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| ROE | 18.5 | 17.2 | 16.0 |
| EPS | 20.9 | 21.9 | 22.9 |
| P/E | 12.8 | 12.2 | 11.7 |
| BV | 113.0 | 127.3 | 142.7 |
| EV/EBITDA | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 |

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Exhibit 2: Earnings snapshot

| Particulars (Rs mn) | Q3 FY23 | Q4 FY23 | Q1 FY24 | Q2 FY24 | Q3 FY24 | y/y (%) | q/q (%) | 9M FY23 | 9M FY24 | y/y (%) |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue | 157,759 | 138,739 | 116,561 | 125,320 | 141,372 | (10.4) | 12.8 | 460,254 | 383,253 | (16.7) |
| Expenditure | 141,005 | 129,309 | 104,743 | 113,173 | 130,412 | (7.5) | 15.2 | 421,127 | 348,328 | (17.3) |
| -Raw Material | 138,567 | 126,371 | 103,009 | 111,069 | 126,179 | (8.9) | 13.6 | 413,153 | 340,256 | (17.6) |
| -Staff Cost | 447 | 341 | 500 | 445 | 502 | 12.4 | 12.7 | 1,334 | 1,448 | 8.5 |
| - Other expenses | 1,991 | 2,597 | 1,234 | 1,658 | 3,732 | 87.4 | 125.0 | 6,640 | 6,624 | (0.3) |
| Operating Profit | 16,754 | 9,431 | 11,818 | 12,147 | 10,960 | (34.6) | (9.8) | 39,127 | 34,925 | (10.7) |
| OPM(%) | 10.6 | 6.8 | 10.1 | 9.7 | 7.8 | (27.0) | (20.0) | 8.5 | 9.1 | 61 bps |
| Other Income | 1,839 | 1,538 | 1,467 | 1,567 | 1,565 | (14.9) | (0.2) | 4,199 | 4,599 | 9.5 |
| Depreciation | 1,923 | 1,886 | 1,919 | 1,948 | 1,955 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 5,758 | 5,821 | 1.1 |
| Interest | 814 | 902 | 746 | 747 | 697 | (14.4) | (6.7) | 2,403 | 2,189 | (8.9) |
| Excpnl Loss/(Profit) | - | - | - | - | - | | | - | - | n.a. |
| PBT | 15,856 | 8,180 | 10,621 | 11,020 | 9,873 | (37.7) | (10.4) | 35,165 | 31,514 | (10.4) |
| Tax | 4,050 | 2,038 | 2,723 | 2,839 | 2,485 | (38.6) | (12.5) | 8,908 | 8,046 | (9.7) |
| PAT | 11,805 | 6,142 | 7,899 | 8,181 | 7,388 | (37.4) | (9.7) | 26,257 | 23,468 | (10.6) |
| Adj PAT | 11,805 | 6,142 | 7,898 | 8,181 | 7,388 | (37.4) | (9.7) | 26,257 | 23,468 | (10.6) |

Exhibit 3: Operating highlights

| Particulars | Q3 FY23 | Q4 FY23 | Q1 FY24 | Q2 FY24 | Q3 FY24 | y/y (%) | q/q (%) | 9M FY23 | 9M FY24 | y/y (%) |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| Volumes (tbtu) | | | | | | | | 1120 | | (,,, |
| Long term | 104.0 | 108.4 | 90.0 | 102.0 | 104.0 | - | 2.0 | 308 | 296 | (3.9) |
| Spot | 3.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 4.0 | 33.3 | (33.3) | 6.0 | 14.0 | 133.3 |
| Service | 47.0 | 60.4 | 123.0 | 102.0 | 110.0 | 134.0 | 7.8 | 218.0 | 335.0 | 53.7 |
| Total | 154.0 | 171.8 | 217.0 | 210.0 | 218.0 | 41.6 | 3.8 | 532.0 | 645.0 | 21.2 |
| Kochi | 13.0 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 35.0 | 40.0 | 14.3 |
| Total | 167.0 | 184.8 | 230.0 | 223.0 | 232.0 | 38.9 | 4.0 | 567.0 | 685.0 | 20.8 |
| Market Share | | | | | | | | | | |
| India LNG Imports (tbtu) | 261.8 | 259.9 | 257.3 | 259.6 | 269.3 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 816.6 | 786.2 | (3.7) |
| Petronet Mkt Shr | 63.8 | 71.1 | 89.4 | 85.9 | 86.1 | 35.0 | 0.3 | 69.3 | 87.2 | 25.7 |
| Utilization % | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dahej | 68.5 | 78.1 | 97.6 | 94.4 | 98.0 | 43.1 | 3.8 | 79.2 | 96.7 | 22.1 |
| Kochi | 20.2 | 20.7 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 22.0 | 8.9 | 7.7 | 18.2 | 21.0 | 15.1 |
| Rs/tbtu | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross margin | 64.1 | 66.9 | 58.9 | 63.9 | 65.5 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 83.1 | 62.8 | (24.4) |
| Opex | 14.6 | 15.9 | 7.5 | 9.4 | 18.2 | 25.0 | 93.4 | 14.1 | 11.8 | (16.2) |
| Ebitda | 49.5 | 51.0 | 51.4 | 54.5 | 47.2 | (4.5) | (13.3) | 69.0 | 51.0 | (26.1) |

^{*}YES Sec estimates



Exhibit 4: Volume break-up

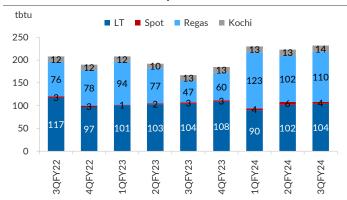
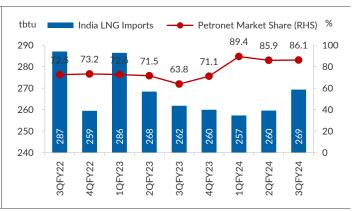


Exhibit 5: Petronet's market share in India



Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 6: Margin and Opex trends

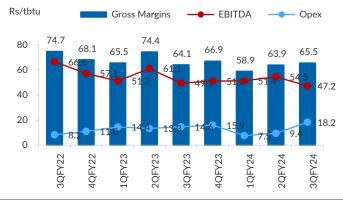
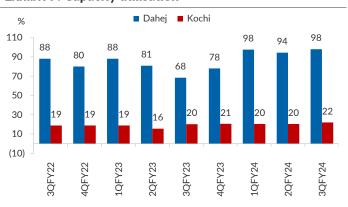


Exhibit 7: Capacity utilisation



Source: Company, YES Sec



CONCALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Expansions: The Dahej terminal expansion is as per the plan, will expand from current 17.5mtpa to 22.5mtpa and is expected to be completed by Mar'2025. The 3rd Jetty in the process of finalizing details and will have a cost around Rs 170bn, after it is awarded, it would take 36 months to complete and it will be diversified from the point of view that it can import propane, ethane as well as LNG. So once this is commissioned, PLNG will have more flexibility in operations and for the upcoming petchem projects it can bring propane and ethane. Kochi will be connected to Bangalore this year and the grid next year which will improve Kochi terminal utilization.
- Red Sea and Qatar LNG extension: The company emphasized that there is negligible risk to them, given the absence of volume inflow from that region. The impact from USA cargos could be there which could impact GAIL if those cargos are directed to India, which is anticipated to be mitigated through existing swap arrangements, ensuring protection for the company. The ongoing contract negotiations with Qatar, while confidential, center around the renewal of existing contracts maintaining current volumes.
- Use or Pay provision: The Opex in the current quarter is higher due to 2.28bn provision against use or pay of 2021 and 2022. It's a time-based provision, otherwise opex is in line.
- Receivables and Bank Guarantee: There are receivables worth Rs 12.53bn, of which Rs4.15bn is of 2021 and Rs 8.38bn is pertaining to 2022 use or pay. The offtakers have discussed and have given them some period to bring more volumes and they are providing bank guarantee for that same amount The FY21 shortfall of volumes would be offtaken by Dec'24, if not then PLNG will raise that in 2024.For FY22 shortfall, the deadline is Dec'25.
- **Inventory and trading gains:** Inventory gains were Rs1.47bn and trading gains at Rs400m, the forex loss was of Rs10m.
- Petchem: No update as of now, board has approved capex of 207bn.
- Dahej tariff: The tariff has been increased at its 5% escalation rate to Rs62.9/mmbtu from 1st Jan'24.
- The 3-4mtpa FSRU east-coast terminal at Gopalpur: The Gopalpur terminal has been approved by the board Lease agreements with the Port is a prerequisite for the project FSRU required will have to be arranged. If PLNG is unable to get an FSRU, then they may go ahead with land-based LNG terminal.
- Ind-AS for Q3FY24: Service revenue stood 1.36bn at Gross Margin level, forex loss 10mn, reversal of rent 80mn, finance and dep 690mn and 840mn.
- Regas and Gorgon volumes: Regas service charges were 6.23bn for service cargos. Gorgon vol at Dahej for YTD9M was at 14.4tbtu.

VIEW & VALUATION

SELL with a TP of Rs 229/sh

We believe earnings would record a ~2% CAGR over FY23-26, driven by the Dahej utilisation and a further ramp-up at Kochi. We downgrade the rating to a **SELL** from **REDUCE** earlier, with a TP of Rs229, valuing the stock at 10x PER.

Exhibit 8: Valuation table

| Valuation | FY26E |
|--------------------|-------|
| EPS (Rs) | 22.9 |
| PER (x) | 10.0 |
| Target (PER based) | 229 |

Exhibit 9: PER (x) band, one-year-forward



Source: Company, YES Sec



FINANCIALS

Exhibit 10: Income statement

| Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn) | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Revenue | 260,229 | 431,686 | 598,994 | 587,949 | 548,642 | 515,108 | | | | | | |
| Total Expense | 213,234 | 379,162 | 550,436 | 540,624 | 499,097 | 463,287 | | | | | | |
| Operating Profit | 46,995 | 52,523 | 48,558 | 47,325 | 49,545 | 51,821 | | | | | | |
| Other Income | 3,882 | 3,073 | 5,736 | 5,736 | 5,736 | 5,736 | | | | | | |
| Depreciation | 7,841 | 7,685 | 7,643 | 7,873 | 8,109 | 8,352 | | | | | | |
| EBIT | 43,036 | 47,911 | 46,651 | 45,189 | 47,173 | 49,205 | | | | | | |
| Interest | 3,360 | 3,173 | 3,305 | 3,305 | 3,305 | 3,305 | | | | | | |
| Extraordinary Item | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | | | |
| PBT | 39,677 | 44,738 | 43,345 | 41,884 | 43,867 | 45,900 | | | | | | |
| Tax | 10,183 | 11,215 | 10,946 | 10,542 | 11,041 | 11,553 | | | | | | |
| PAT | 29,494 | 33,524 | 32,399 | 31,342 | 32,826 | 34,347 | | | | | | |
| Adj. PAT | 29,494 | 33,524 | 32,399 | 31,342 | 32,826 | 34,347 | | | | | | |
| Eps | 19.7 | 22.3 | 21.6 | 20.9 | 21.9 | 22.9 | | | | | | |

Exhibit 11: Balance sheet

| Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn) | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Equity capital | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Reserves | 101,495 | 119,255 | 134,347 | 154,439 | 176,015 | 199,112 |
| Net worth | 116,495 | 134,255 | 149,347 | 169,439 | 191,015 | 214,112 |
| Debt | 644 | 230 | - | - | - | - |
| Deferred tax liab (net) | 8,806 | 8,324 | 7,031 | 7,031 | 7,031 | 7,031 |
| Capital Employed | 125,945 | 142,809 | 156,378 | 176,470 | 198,046 | 221,143 |
| | | | | | | |
| Fixed assets | 103,386 | 97,498 | 99,162 | 113,228 | 128,567 | 146,207 |
| Investments | 1,644 | 1,744 | 1,748 | 1,644 | 1,644 | 1,644 |
| Net working capital | 20,915 | 43,567 | 55,469 | 61,598 | 67,835 | 73,292 |
| Inventories | 3,372 | 5,767 | 11,531 | 11,276 | 10,522 | 9,879 |
| Sundry debtors | 18,745 | 26,844 | 38,397 | 41,881 | 39,081 | 36,693 |
| Cash & Bank Balance | 43,423 | 43,196 | 56,800 | 59,724 | 68,138 | 75,437 |
| Other current assets | 18,756 | 36,142 | 16,588 | 16,588 | 16,588 | 16,588 |
| Sundry creditors | 10,355 | 15,265 | 16,440 | 17,488 | 16,110 | 14,920 |
| Other liabilities | 53,027 | 53,117 | 51,408 | 50,384 | 50,384 | 50,384 |
| Application of Funds | 125,945 | 142,809 | 156,378 | 176,470 | 198,046 | 221,143 |



Exhibit 12: Cash flow statement

| Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn) | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| PBT | 39,677 | 44,738 | 43,345 | 41,884 | 43,867 | 45,900 |
| Depreciation & amortization | 7,841 | 7,685 | 7,643 | 7,873 | 8,109 | 8,352 |
| Interest expense | 1,332 | 1,010 | (60) | 3,305 | 3,305 | 3,305 |
| (Inc)/Dec in working capital | (1,746) | (6,641) | (15,943) | (3,205) | 2,176 | 1,842 |
| Tax paid | (9,949) | (12,642) | (12,380) | (10,542) | (11,041) | (11,553) |
| Less: Interest/Dividend Income Received | (291) | (98) | (508) | | | |
| Other operating Cash Flow | (1,271) | 670 | 3,100 | | | |
| Cash flow from operating activities | 35,592 | 34,721 | 25,199 | 39,314 | 46,416 | 47,846 |
| Capital expenditure | (730) | (723) | (10,577) | (21,939) | (23,448) | (25,992) |
| Inc/(Dec) in investments | (11,586) | 5,521 | 424 | 104 | - | - |
| Add: Interest/Dividend Income Received | 3,043 | (15,431) | (1,214) | - | - | - |
| Cash flow from investing activities | (9,273) | (10,633) | (11,367) | (21,835) | (23,448) | (25,992) |
| Inc/(Dec) in share capital | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inc/(Dec) in debt | (1,775) | (6,271) | (6,177) | - | - | - |
| Dividend Paid | (22,452) | (15,750) | (17,250) | (11,250) | (11,250) | (11,250) |
| Others | (3,360) | (88) | (253) | (3,305) | (3,305) | (3,305) |
| Cash flow from financing activities | (27,586) | (22,109) | (23,681) | (14,555) | (14,555) | (14,555) |
| Net cash flow | (1,266.9) | 1,978.7 | (9,848.8) | 2,924.2 | 8,413.4 | 7,299.3 |

Exhibit 13: Du-pont analysis

| Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn) | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|------------------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Tax burden (x) | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Interest burden (x) | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| EBIT margin (x) | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Asset turnover (x) | 3.4 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.9 |
| Financial leverage (x) | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| RoE (%) | 26.1 | 26.7 | 22.8 | 19.7 | 18.2 | 17.0 |



Exhibit 14: Ratio analysis

| Y/e 31 Mar | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Growth matrix (%) | | | | | | |
| Revenue growth | (26.6) | 65.9 | 38.8 | (1.8) | (6.7) | (6.1) |
| Op profit growth | 17.8 | 11.8 | (7.6) | (2.5) | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| EBIT growth | 20.0 | 11.3 | (2.6) | (3.1) | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| Net profit growth | 9.3 | 13.7 | (3.4) | (3.3) | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| | | | | | | |
| Profitability ratios (%) | | | | | | |
| ОРМ | 18.1 | 12.2 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.1 |
| EBIT margin | 16.5 | 11.1 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 8.6 | 9.6 |
| Net profit margin | 11.3 | 7.8 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 6.7 |
| RoCE | 34.2 | 33.5 | 29.8 | 25.6 | 23.8 | 22.3 |
| RoE | 25.3 | 25.0 | 21.7 | 18.5 | 17.2 | 16.0 |
| RoA | 38.8 | 39.7 | 31.5 | 25.8 | 25.8 | 26.1 |
| | | | | | | |
| Per share ratios | | | | | | |
| EPS | 19.7 | 22.3 | 21.6 | 20.9 | 21.9 | 22.9 |
| Dividend per share | 11.5 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Cash EPS | 24.9 | 27.5 | 26.7 | 26.1 | 27.3 | 28.5 |
| Book value per share | 77.7 | 89.5 | 99.6 | 113.0 | 127.3 | 142.7 |
| | | | | | | |
| Valuation ratios | | | | | | |
| P/E | 11.4 | 8.7 | 10.6 | 12.8 | 12.2 | 11.7 |
| P/CEPS | 9.0 | 7.1 | 8.6 | 10.3 | 9.8 | 9.4 |
| P/B | 2.9 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| EV/EBIDTA | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 |
| | | | | | | |
| Payout (%) | | | | | | |
| Dividend payout | 58.5 | 47.0 | 53.2 | 35.9 | 34.3 | 32.8 |
| Tax payout | 25.7 | 25.1 | 25.3 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 25.2 |
| | | | | | | |
| Liquidity ratios | | | | | | |
| Debtor days | 26.29 | 22.70 | 23.40 | 26.00 | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| Inventory days | 7.0 | 4.4 | 5.7 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| Creditor days | 18.8 | 12.3 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 12.3 | 12.2 |



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