

Nam Viet Corporation (ANV) [NOT-RATED]

Company Report

Industry: Agricult Report Date: Oc Current Price: Dividend Yield:	tural Products tober 17, 2019 VND25,900 5.8%	Rev y/y EPS y/y GPM NPM EV/EBITDA P/OCF P/E	2016 13.2% NM 12.8% 0.7% 25.0x 11.8x NM	2017 4.4% 630.7% 14.7% 4.8% 12.9x 4.4x 22.3x	2018 39.6% 297.2% 20.9% 14.6% 5.5x 4.6x 5.6x	45% 30% 15% 0% -15% Oct-18 Feb-19 Jun-19 Oct-19
Market Cap:	USD144.9mn		<u>ANV</u>	Peers	VNI	Company Overview
Foreign Room:	USD67.7mn	P/E (ttm)	4.3x	5.0x	16.9x	ANV specializes in raising and exporting pangasius fish.
ADTV30D:	USD600,000	P/B (curr)	1.6x	1.1x	2.4x	The company used to be Vietnam's top pangasius exporter
State Ownership:	0%	Net D/E	0.3%	0.9%	NA	before it lost the Russian market due to trade restrictions.
Outstanding Shares:	127.0mn	ROE	44.0%	24.4%	14.6%	Now, it is the country's third-largest player, per the Vietnam
Fully Diluted Shares	127.0mn	ROA	21.5%	9.4%	2.5%	Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP).

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Exports to China and farming expansion buoy earnings

- ANV is the third largest pangasius exporter in Vietnam with an export share of ~6% in 2018, per our estimate. ANV's main markets include Latin America (LatAm), China and Southeast Asia.
- During 2010-2016, ANV averaged near-zero ROE due to non-core losses and hefty interest expenses. Since 2017, ANV has been refocused on its core pangasius export business. This, coupled with favorable industry conditions, catapulted ROE to 37% in 2018.
- Backed by rising internal supply and heightening Chinese demand, ANV targets its NPAT to surge 16% YoY and 43% YoY in 2019 and 2020, respectively.
- ANV's valuation looks attractive on a 2019G PER of 4.8x (company guidance), which is 37% below a three-year peer median of 7.9x, along with a dividend yield of nearly 6%. ANV's current 2019G PER is in line with our 2019F PER for industry leader VHC, which we think is undervalued.
- Key investment risks: Unexpected slowdown in demand; rising competition from tilapia; foreign exchange volatility as a result of US-China trade tensions.

Large exposure to China underpins solid growth outlook. In 8M 2019, China was ANV's top single-country market with an export value contribution of 26%. In our view, ANV's large exposure to China should drive annual double-digit volume growth over the next three years given China's rising preference for seafood, especially pangasius. In 2013-2018, Vietnam's pangasius export value to China recorded a 42% CAGR, per VASEP.

However, ANV's key markets could be unstable. For example, Brazil imposed an import ban on Vietnamese seafood for one year due to food safety concerns in 2014. Meanwhile, trade tensions between the US and China could intensify competition from Chinese tilapia (a species that competes with pangasius) in ANV's main markets if Chinese companies struggle to export to the US.

ANV boasts an integrated value chain with 100% of raw pangasius being sourced internally, bolstering its competitiveness in price-sensitive markets such as China and LatAm. ANV's value chain ranges from feed production, hatchery and farming to fillet processing and by-product recycling. However, unlike industry leader VHC, ANV has not produced value-added products (e.g, collagen and gelatin), limiting the total value the company extracts from pangasius.

Aggressive farming expansion to capitalize on strong Chinese demand. ANV's estimated investment of VND4tn (USD172mn) in the Binh Phu farming area, where production is set to commence in Q4 2019, will nearly triple its farming area from 330 ha currently to 930 ha. At maximum capacity, this farm can produce 250,000 tons of raw pangasius per annum, compared to ANV's planned production volume of 100,000 tons in 2019.



Business overview

The third largest pangasius exporter in Vietnam. Founded in 1993, ANV used to be the top player in the pangasius export industry before Russia issued a ban on pangasius fillet imports from Vietnam in 2008 due to concerns over food safety and excessive ice glazing. In 2018, ANV claimed an export share of ~6%, per our estimate.

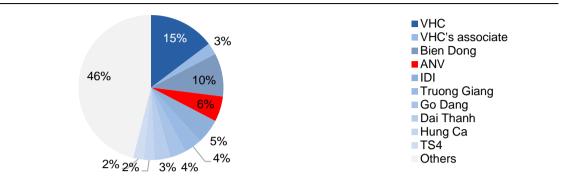
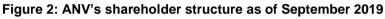


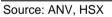
Figure 1: Market share by export value as of 2018

Source: Agromonitor

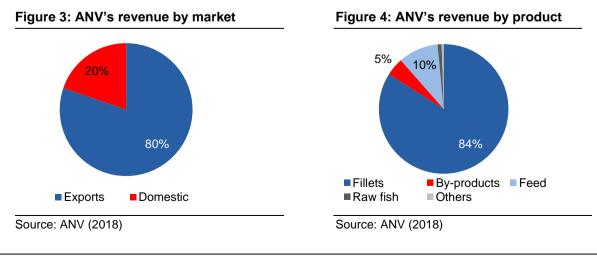
ANV remains largely a family business. As of September 2019, ANV's chairman cum founder, Mr. Doan Toi, and his family hold a combined stake of 75% in ANV. The chairman's family also boasts a prominent presence on ANV's board of directors and management team. For example, three out of eight board members are related to ANV's chairman.







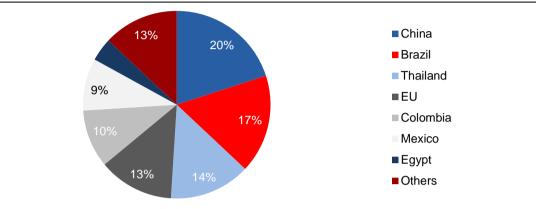
Frozen pangasius fillet exports are ANV's business mainstay. Frozen pangasius fillets, which are mainly exported, constituted 84% of ANV's revenue in 2018. The remaining revenue came from pangasius by-products such as fish meal and fish oil, pangasius feed and raw pangasius fish. The revenue contribution from frozen pangasius fillets to ANV is broadly similar to that of VHC. Nonetheless, VHC generates higher sales from value-added products (~5% of total 2018 revenue, per VHC), such as collagen and gelatin vs almost none from ANV.

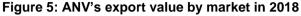




Key markets include LatAm, China and ASEAN, which we consider "low-value" markets due to stiff competition. As of 2018, LatAm was ANV's largest market with an export value contribution of ~38%, led by Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. China, which is VHC's biggest single-country market, made up 20% of ANV's exports in 2018, representing a sharp jump from less than 5% in 2017. Meanwhile, ASEAN countries, spearheaded by Thailand, contributed ~18% to ANV's exports in 2018.

ANV's main markets typically yield lower prices than the EU and the US (VHC's stronghold). In our view, this is because in addition to lower income levels, these markets have lenient quality regulations compared to the EU and the US, leading to fiercer competition.





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Source: ANV, VCSC



Figure 6: Pangasius export prices in selected markets in 2018 (USD/kg)

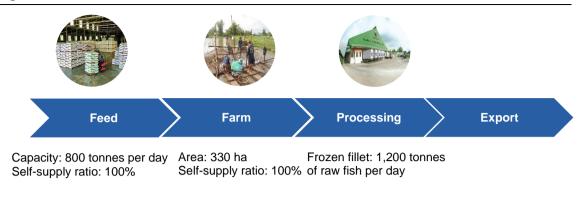
US EU Latin America Middle East China and Hong ASEAN Kong



ANV boasts a fully integrated value chain, ranging from feed production, hatchery and farming to fillet processing and by-product recycling. Notably, ANV's raw fish self-supply ratio is almost 100% vs ~40% for VHC, per our estimate. As a result, ANV's GPM tends to correlate closely with export prices while being detached from external raw fish price movements. In addition, ANV's volume growth will be predicated on its ability to ramp up internal supply by either improving farming yields or expanding farming areas.



Figure 7: ANV's value chain as of YE2018



Source: VCSC, ANV

Historical performance

Top line growth primarily driven by higher export prices. Per ANV, its export volume registered a CAGR of 1.7% during 2013-2018. Meanwhile, its export revenue posted a CAGR of 6.7% in the same period as export prices surged in late 2017 and 2018 due to a pangasius supply shortage.

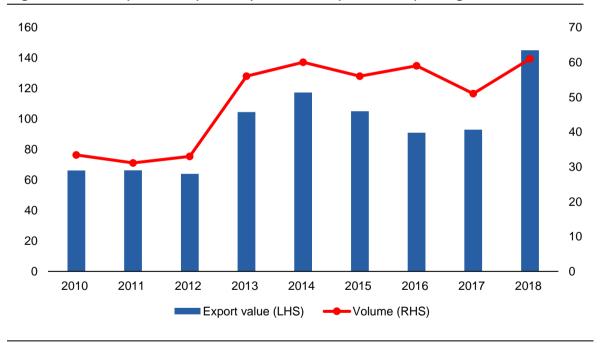


Figure 8: ANV's export value (USD mn) and volume ('000 tonnes) during 2010-2018

Source: ANV

GPM fluctuates widely in conjunction with ASP. During 2014-2016, ANV's GPM contracted from 15.2% to 12.8% amid a 25% decline in ASP. Conversely, from 2016 to 2018, ANV's ASP jumped 60%, leading to an eight-ppt expansion in GPM.

As discussed above, due to ANV's full ownership of its raw fish supply, its GPM displays a tighter correlation with ASP compared to other pangasius exporters whose GPM is subject to the spreads between selling prices and external raw fish prices.



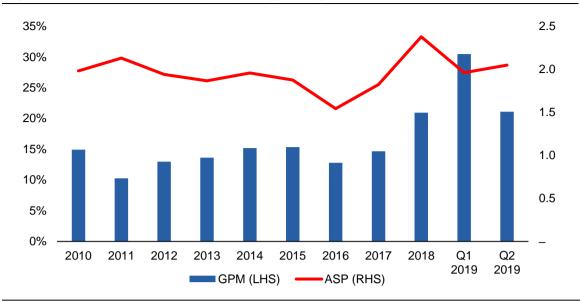


Figure 9: ANV's GPM and ASP (USD per kg) during 2010-2019

Source: ANV, VCSC

Non-core businesses undermined ANV in the past; however, the company has refocused on the pangasius export business since 2017. Starting in 2009, ANV invested a total of VND620bn (USD27.3mn) for a 40.5% stake in DAP 2 Vinachem, which produces and distributes DAP fertilizers in Vietnam. Due to fierce competition and falling selling prices in the DAP fertilizer market, the carrying amount of this investment dropped to ~VND432bn (USD19mn) in 2016. This, coupled with high gearing, almost wiped out ANV's accumulated profits from pangasius exports during 2010-2016.

In 2016, ANV sold its stake in DAP 2 Vinachem for VND540bn (USD23.8mn) to Dai Tay Duong, an entity related to its controlling family. This amount was paid through multiple tranches from 2016 to 2019. According to ANV, it has completed clearing its non-core legacy holdings as of the end of Q2 2019.

Bolstered by its divestment from DAP 2 Vinachem in 2016 and increased pangasius export prices in late 2017 and 2018, ANV's ROE strengthened to 11% in 2017 and 37% in 2018 vs ~0% during 2010-2016.

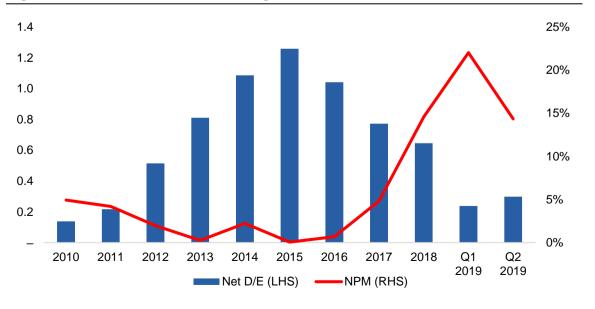
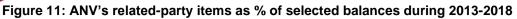
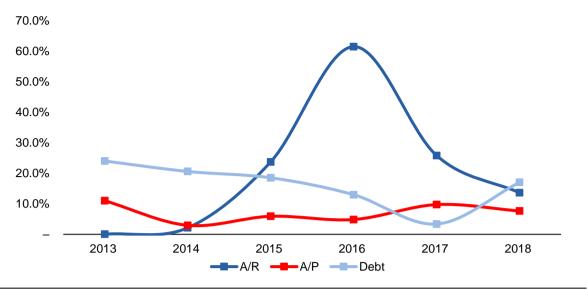


Figure 10: ANV's net D/E and NPM during 2010-2019

Source: ANV, VCSC

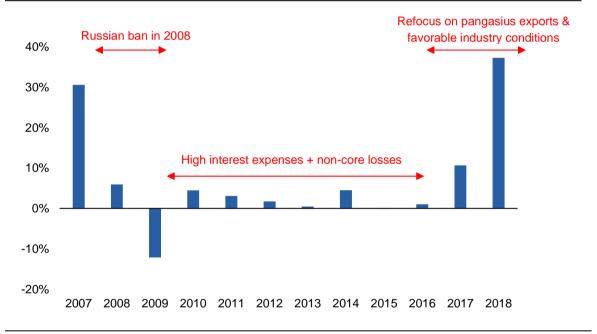






Source: ANV, VCSC





Source: ANV, VCSC



Outlook: New Binh Phu farm to help capitalize on rising Chinese appetite for pangasius

China is a major long-term growth driver for Vietnam's pangasius industry thanks to its rising seafood consumption

Amid increasing seafood consumption in China, Vietnamese pangasius is standing out as an alternative to Chinese fish species such as sole and flounder. Per VASEP, Vietnam's pangasius export value to China (including Hong Kong) delivered a CAGR of 42% over 2013-2018. This stellar growth was underpinned by booming catering services (including hotpot chains) and e-commerce in China, and compounded by proactive market penetration efforts of Vietnamese exporters.

Figure 13: Examples of Chinese dishes that use pangasius

Amid the growing popularity of pangasius, some farmers in southern China even switched from raising tilapia (one of China's key farm-raised fish species) to pangasius in 2018, which raises the question of whether China will reduce Vietnamese imports in the long term. We see this risk as insignificant given the unfavorable temperature for pangasius farming in China as well as the yellow flesh of Chinese pangasius (Vietnamese pangasius has unique white flesh, which is preferred to yellow flesh). In 2018, China harvested approximately 30,000 tonnes of raw pangasius, which was less than 10% of its imports from Vietnam, per our estimate.

Moving forward, we believe the Chinese appetite for pangasius will continue to intensify due to the country's expanding seafood palate amid its relatively low pangasius penetration vs the US and EU. At the same time, China's ongoing crackdown on border trade will bode well for official exporters such as ANV.

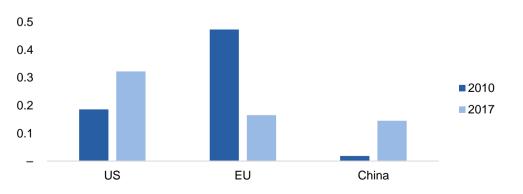


Figure 14: Pangasius consumption per capita in major markets in 2010-2017 (kg)

Source: NOAA, VCSC estimates based on VASEP, Agromonitor data; assuming consumption is solely supplied by Vietnam.

Source: VCSC compilations



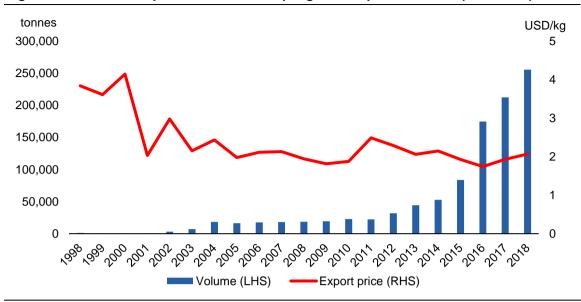


Figure 15: Volume and price of Vietnamese pangasius exports to China (1998-2018)*

For a more detailed discussion on the pangasius export industry, please find our report <u>VHC</u> <u>– World's leading pangasius exporter</u> dated September 12, 2019.

ANV partners with food distributor Fenglei to ramp up presence in China

In May 2018, ANV entered a partnership with Shanghai Fenglei Ltd, a frozen seafood distributor. Per ANV, this cooperation will support its market penetration in China on the back of Fenglei's local expertise. Fenglei will also help ANV in joining B2B (business-to-business) seafood trade shows in China to promote its products. Currently, Fenglei runs 30 wholesale stores in Shanghai, Beijing and other regions and supplies pangasius to restaurants across China. Unlike in other markets, ANV sells products under its own brand in China, per management.



Figure 16: A Feng Lei – ANV pangasius wholesale store in Shanghai, China*

Source: Feng Lei; *ANV's logo is on the left.

Source: VASEP, Agromonitor, VCSC estimates (*including Hong Kong)



Aggressive farming expansion to shore up volume

In January 2019, ANV started to invest in a new farming area of 600 ha in Binh Phu, An Giang Province. This farm almost doubles ANV's current farming area of 330 ha. Against an estimated capex of VND4tn (USD172mn), ANV plans to acquire modern technology from Israel to boost farming yields. Per our estimate, this Binh Phu project is equivalent to ~10% of the total pangasius farming area in Vietnam. In addition, it could produce up to 8% of Vietnam's total pangasius supply when operating at maximum capacity.

As of September 2019, the land construction of this farm has almost been completed. According to ANV, the farm is slated to harvest its first ~20,000 tonnes of raw fish in Q4 2019.

At the end of Q2 2019, ANV has disbursed VND558bn (USD24mn) for the Binh Phu project, mostly for land and construction costs. Management plans to finance this project with internal cash flows instead of a new share issuance as originally planned in Q4 2018.

Figure 17: Binh Phu farming project

	Land area (ha)	Investment cost (VND bn)
Hatchery phase (producing young fish)	150	1,000
Farming phase (producing raw commercial-sized fish)	450	3,000
Total	600	4,000
Source: ANV, VCSC compilations		

Figure 18: ANV's Binh Phu farming area as of September 2019



Source: ANV

Plans for expansion into collagen and gelatin products as well as gaining access to the US market present potential upside of long-term growth

ANV is now planning to expand into the collagen and gelatin businesses by cooperating with a South Korean partner in 2020. This move mirrors VHC, which has engaged in these businesses for several years. Per our estimate, collagen and gelatin products boast a wider and more stable GPM of 30%+ vs 10%-25% of traditional frozen fillets.

On the other hand, ANV began to export to the US in small batches in 2019. In order to compete well against market leaders in the US such as VHC and Bien Dong, ANV will need to obtain favorable anti-dumping tariffs from the US by participating in the US's annual review of anti-dumping tariffs on Vietnamese pangasius. This anti-dumping tariff review requires an extensive audit of historical operational data along with cumbersome legal paperwork. Therefore, we believe ANV will need at least three years to complete the process. As such, we do not expect any material contribution from the US market to ANV's revenue in the medium term.



This ambitious target is premised on expected robust Chinese demand and a volume ramp-up supported by the Binh Phu farm. In 2020, ANV targets to source 100,000 tonnes from Binh Phu vs 120,000 tonnes from other farms.

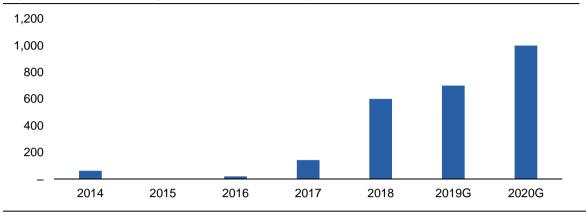


Figure 19: ANV's NPAT guidance for 2019-2020 (VND bn)

Source: ANV

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2019 NPAT target looks attainable thanks to elevated exports to China

In 8M 2019, ANV recorded 12% YoY and 16% YoY increases in export value and export volume, respectively. Notably, the export value contribution from China widened from 20% in 2018 to 26% in 8M 2019. We note that ANV only started to focus on the Chinese market in Q4 2018.

Meanwhile, ANV's unit gross profit stayed at a healthy level of USD0.6 per kg in H1 2019, which was flat vs full-year 2018. All told, we expect ANV will accomplish its 2019 NPAT target of VND700bn (USD30mn, +14% YoY).

V/ND has	114 0040	114 2040	VeV	014 004 0	014 0040	VeV	2040	20400	VeV
VND bn	H1 2018	H1 2019	YoY	9M 2018	9M 2019	YoY	2018	2019G	YoY
Revenue	1,683	1,975	17%	2,735	3,102	13%	4,118	4,700	14%
COGS	1,421	1,473	4%	2,304	2,364	3%	3,256	3,666	13%
Gross profit	262	502	91%	431	738	71%	862	1,034	20%
NPAT	193	354	83%	308	506	65%	604	700	16%
NPAT-MI	189	354	87%	303	506	67%	600	NA	NA
GPM	15.6%	25.4%		15.8%	23.8%		20.9%	22.0%	
NPM	13.6%	24.0%		13.3%	21.4%		18.4%	19.1%	
	H1 2018	H1 2019	YoY	8M 2018	8M 2019	YoY	2018	2019G	YoY
Export value (USD mn)	60	67	11%	83	93	12%	145	165	14%
Export volume ('000 tonnes)	30	33	12%	37	43	16%	61	70	15%
ASP (USD per kg)	2.0	2.0	-1%	2.2	2.2	-3%	2.4	2.4	-1%
Revenue per kg (USD)	2.4	2.6	5%				2.9	2.9	-1%
Gross profit per kg (USD)	0.4	0.6	71%				0.6	0.6	4%
Source: ANV, VCSC									

Figure 20: ANV's H1 2019 results and guidance for 2019



Investment risks

Unexpected demand slowdown and trade turbulence

As China and LatAm are ANV's largest markets, any economic slowdown and/or softening of seafood consumption in these regions could dampen demand for ANV's products.

In terms of trade-related issues, as a consequence of the US import tariff imposed on Chinese tilapia (the US initially placed a 10% tariff on imported tilapia from China in September 2018 before lifting it to 25% in May 2019), Chinese tilapia producers could intensify their sales efforts in the domestic market as well as in other low-value markets such as Latin America and Southeast Asia at the expense of Vietnamese pangasius. In addition, any depreciation of the CNY against the VND could impose pricing pressure on ANV.

Potential equity dilution or increased debt as a result of farming investments

As the estimated capex for the Binh Phu project is 6x that of ANV's operating cash flow in 2018, there remains risk that ANV may either issue new equity or take on more debt to speed up the rollout of this project. However, management is adamant on internally financing the project, which will be rolled out in phases to ease capital pressure.

Valuation

Since 2015, ANV's PER has moved within a wide range of 4x to 20x owing to its volatile earnings, especially before ANV cleared its non-core problems. However, ANV's PER has generally trended in line with that of VHC since 2017. We note that VHC's PER is currently at a three-year low, which we attribute to investor concerns over declines in its exports to the US YTD as well as possible margin contraction from 2018's record-high levels.

In our opinion, ANV should trade at a discount of around 10% to VHC due to (1) ANV's exposure to low-value and more competitive markets vs VHC's exposure to the high-value US market, (2) VHC's proven quality track record that makes it less susceptible to potential quality-related trade restrictions and (3) corporate governance concerns over ANV's historical related-party transactions.

Having said that, given its bright earnings outlook, ANV's 2019G PER of 4.8x looks attractive compared to a three-year average peer median TTM PER of 7.9x along with our implied target PER of 6.8x for VHC.

	2018	2019G	2020G			
NPAT (VND bn)	600	700	1,000			
EPS (VND)	4,605	5,373	7,675			
PER @ share price of VND25,900	5.6x	4.8x	3.4x			
Source: ANV VCSC calculations						

Figure 21: Estimated PERs based on company guidance

Source: ANV, VCSC calculations

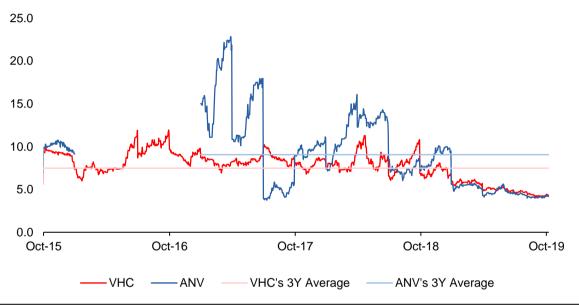


Figure 22: Vietnam's listed seafood companies

Ticker	Market Cap (USD mn)	TTM Sales (USD mn)	YoY (%)	TTM NPAT (USD mn)	YoY (%)	Net D/E (x)	ROE (%)	ROA (%)	LQ PBR (x)	TTM PER (x)
MPC	203.6	735.3	8.0	30.5	10.0	1.0	24.4	7.6	1.1	4.8
VHC	318.1	397.3	11.0	73.6	183.2	0.0	44.6	29.9	1.6	4.4
HVG	26.1	354.4	-47.7	0.1	NA	1.3	14.4	2.8	0.4	5.8
IDI	62.0	275.5	23.0	27.5	-6.1	0.9	20.9	8.4	0.5	2.6
FMC	58.8	165.4	1.2	7.8	51.9	0.8	32.2	13.9	1.6	5.4
ACL	28.9	73.4	5.8	10.0	45.5	1.0	53.3	22.0	1.0	3.1
ABT	17.6	17.2	4.2	2.9	-0.3	0.0	12.9	9.4	1.0	7.4
Median	57.1	275.5	8.0	10.0	31.0	0.9	24.4	9.4	1.1	5.0
Mean	103.8	288.3	6.5	21.8	206.9	0.7	29.4	13.5	1.1	4.8
ANV	144.9	189.2	35.0	32.8	157.2	0.3	44.0	21.5	1.6	4.3

Source: Bloomberg; data as of October 17, 2019

Figure 23: TTM PER of ANV vs VHC



Source: Bloomberg; ANV's TTM PER was not meaningful during 2016



Financial Statements

P/L (VND bn)	2016	2017	2018	B/S (VND bn)	2016	2017	2018
Revenue	2,825	2,949	4,118	Cash & equivalents	22	26	69
COGS	-2,463	-2,517	-3,256	ST investment	1	0	452
Gross profit	361	432	862	Accounts receivable	434	341	525
Selling expenses	-136	-146	-161	Inventories	1,195	874	962
General & Admin exp	-134	-39	-9	Other current assets	256	76	82
Operating profit	91	247	693	Total Current Assets	1,908	1,317	2,090
Financial income	154	20	74	Fixed assets, gross	1,373	1,412	1,448
Financial expenses	-89	-64	-75	- Depreciation	-757	-827	-899
 o/w, interest expense 	-76	-57	-46	Fixed assets, net	615	585	549
Associates	-10	-32	1	LT investments	412	731	326
Net other income/(loss)	-117	-5	-2	LT assets other	82	70	461
Profit before tax	29	167	690	Total LT assets	1,110	1,385	1,335
Income Tax	-15	-23	-86	Total Assets	3,018	2,702	3,425
NPAT before MI	13	144	604				
Minority interests	6	-2	-4	Accounts payable	221	100	119
NPAT less MI, reported	19	142	600	Short-term debt	1,162	1,025	1,251
NPAT less MI, adjusted ⁽¹⁾	19	142	576	Other ST liabilities	103	107	198
				Total current liabilities	1,487	1,232	1,568
EBITDA	169	328	773	Long-term debt	222	76	10
EPS basic reported, VND	159	1,159	4,605	Other LT liabilities	0	0	0
EPS basic adjusted ⁽¹⁾ , VND	159	1,159	4,605	Total liabilities	1,709	1,308	1,577
EPS fully diluted ⁽¹⁾ , VND	159	1,159	4,605				
DPS, VND	900	1,200	1,500	Preferred Equity	0	0	0
DPS/EPS (%)	567.3%	103.5%	32.6%	Share premium	612	22	22
(1) Adjusted for one-offs				Paid in capital	660	1,250	1,250
Ratios	2016	2017	2018	Retained earnings	19	153	603
Growth				Other equity	23	-27	-28
Revenue growth %	13.2%	4.4%	39.6%	Minority interest	-6	-4	0
Op profit growth %	-40.1%	170.6%	180.3%	Total equity	1,309	1,394	1,848
EBIT growth %	277.4%	-87.3%	276.6%	Total liabilities & equity	3,018	2,702	3,425
EPS growth %	1175.9%	630.7%	297.2%				
				Y/E shares out, mn	122.5	122.5	125.0
Profitability ratios				Y/E treasury shares, mn	0.4	0.4	0.4
Gross margin	12.8%	14.7%	20.9%	Cash flow (VND bn)	2016	2017	2018
EBIT margin	3.2%	8.4%	16.8%	Beginning Cash Balance	13	22	26
EBITDA margin	6.0%	11.1%	18.8%	Net Income	19	142	600
NPAT-MI margin	0.7%	4.8%	14.6%	Dep, & amortization	77	80	80
ROE	1.0%	10.7%	37.3%	Other adjustments	266	53	210
ROA	0.4%	5.0%	19.7%	Chge in Working Cap	-85	476	-169
				Cash from operations	278	751	721
Efficiency ratios			100.0				(0.0
Days inventory on hand	185.0	150.0	102.9	Capital Expenditures, net	-57	-53	-432
Days AR outstanding	48.3	48.0	38.4	Investments, net	145	-328	-252
Days AP outstanding	31.9	23.3	12.3	Cash from investing	88	-381	-685
Cash conversion cycle	201.5	174.7	129.1	D'aideacht a cid	00	0.4	4.40
				Dividends paid	-32	-84	-149
Liquidity/Solvency	4.0		4.0	∆ in Share Capital	0	0	25
Current ratio	1.3	1.1	1.3	∆ in ST debt	-141	-137	226
Quick ratio Cash ratio	0.5	0.4	0.7	Δ in LT debt	-117	-146	-67
	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other financing C/F	-67	0	-28
Debt/assets Debt/capital	0.5	0.4	0.4	Cash from financing	-356	-366	7
	0.5	0.4	0.4	Not obongo in coch	0	4	40
Debt/equity	1.1	0.8	0.7	Net change in cash Ending Cash Balance	9	4	43
Interest coverage ratio	1.2	4.4	15.1		22	26	69

Source: Company financial statements, VCSC



VCSC Rating System

Stock ratings are set based on projected total shareholder return (TSR), defined as (target price – current price)/current price + dividend yield, and are not related to market performance.

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