

Earnings Alert Sunday, 29 October 2023

الخدمات المالية Financial Services

Gulf Warehousing Company (GWCS)

Recommendation	ACCUMULATE	Risk Rating	R-3
Share Price	QR2.912	Target Price	QR4.855
Implied Upside	66.7%		

In-Line 3Q2023 Earnings Despite Freight Forwarding Weakness; Accumulate

- In-line 3Q2023 earnings as freight forwarding revenue shortfall made up by higher margins Gulf Warehousing Company's (GWCS) 3Q2023 net profit came in at QR53.1mn (-10.7% YoY, -0.5% QoQ), which was in-line with our estimate of QR54.2mn (-2.2% divergence).
- 3Q2023 top-line came in at QR349.6mn, down 10.5% YoY/6.3% QoQ as lower-margin freight forwarding revenue misses by 20.1%. Revenue was 8.6% shy of our model of QR382.5mn.
- Logistics held the line with revenue of QR246.3mn (-5.9% YoY, 1.6% QoQ; 70% of total revenue), aided by growth in contract logistics thus far in 2023. Segment revenue moderately missed our forecast of QR254.1mn by 3.1%. Logistics has benefited from clients, such as the Supreme Committee, Accor & Qatar Airways, along with 98% occupancy in logistics hubs (excluding Al Wukair with ~92%/56% occupancy in phases 1/2). This has helped offset moribund rental rates and a FIFA-related ~4% throughput fall in contract logistics from 1,336k in 9M2022 to 1,276k in 9M2023.
- Freight forwarding top-line of QR99.9mn (-20.4% YoY, -21.6% QoQ; 29% of total revenue) missed our model significantly for the 2nd straight quarter, coming in at 20.1% below our forecast of QR124.9mn. Sea freight volumes fell 43% YoY/13% QoQ and air freight volumes also declined 27% YoY/22% QoQ. Given that the freight business is generally lower-margin, this explains the stronger-than-expected GMs for 3Q2023.
- **3Q2023 gross margin came in 31.7% vs. 28.2% in 3Q2022 and 30.7% in 2Q2023.** The reported gross margin came in above our estimate of 30.8%. During the call, the company pointed to higher-margin break-bulk shipments/sea-charter business, along with some improvement in agent rates. GWCS also reported an EBITDA margin of 36.7% in 3Q2023 vs. 30.6% in 3Q2022 and 35.1% in 2Q2023.
- Finance charges, while in-line with our estimate, continue to bite. GWCS posted 3Q2023 finance charges of QR26.3mn (95.4% YoY/7.7% QoQ), in-line with our model of QR26.0mn (1.4% change).
- Underlying business remains strong with GWCS posting 9M2023 operating income of QR247.2mn, up 11.3% YoY and 9M2023 EBITDA of QR398.9mn, up 14.5% YoY. YTD net income, however, fell 3.6% YoY to QR167.9mn with finance charges doubling to QR76.4mn vs. QR38.2mn in 9M2022. Overall interest rate on debt has grown from 3.75% in 9M2022 to 6.75% in 9M2023.
- Given 9M2023 earnings of QR167.9mn, we expect to increase our 2023 earnings of QR217.3mn by ~
 2-3% implying 2023 earnings decline of ~7%. Start-up of new projects, such as Al Wukair phase 2
 (July handover, with 65% signed & 56% occupied), LVQ phase 6 (chemicals warehouse facility that
 began operations in September; 10,000 pallet positions) and Flag Oman (moving to ownedwarehouse by end-November; currently IKEA is the only customer with 20% occupancy but
 pipeline remains solid), add to the revenue momentum in 2023 (offsetting weakness post the WC)
 and in 2024. However, significantly higher finance charges, along with higher depreciation
 expenses, should take a bite out of earnings in 2023. Earnings acceleration in 2024 (increasing 25.9%
 to QR273.4mn) and details on medium-term growth prospects could act as positive catalysts.
- We rate GWCS as an Accumulate with a price target of QR4.855. GWCS trades at P/Es of 7.9x and 6.2x for 2023 & 2024, respectively, which is attractive relative to its historical median of 11.7x.
- For GWCS to rerate, we need a pickup in newsflow catalysts along with liquidity. We note several potential projects not in our model: (1) Al Wukair phase 3 GWCS could move forward, assuming favorable demand for phase 2 (expecting ~90% occupancy by 1Q2024 but phase 2 demand has been below phase 1), which could lead to ~6% EPS acceleration. (2) Newly-formed subsidiary, GWC Energy, is targeting the offshore/onshore-integrated shipping, logistics & marine services market in Qatar/GCC and could benefit from increased NF activity as Qatar expands its LNG capacity from 77 MTPA to 126 MTPA by 2026. Management is expecting a pickup from 4Q/1Q given some vessel delays. GWCS has also bid on a tender with a decision expected 1Q2024. (3) Expansion outside of Qatar, for e.g., freight forwarding in the KSA (with potential to expand into warehousing longer term). The stock continues to suffer from a lack of liquidity, which needs to be addressed. An uptick in DPS could also be catalyst given the below-market yield but a significant increase is unlikely.
- **Risks:** LT growth in warehousing demand in Qatar remains uncertain. Receivable collections is subdued with GWCS collecting QR133mn in the month of September, which is the lowest level seen this year and the trend remains the same thus far in October. Geopolitical risks cannot be modeled. *Key Financial Data and Estimates*

	FY2022	FY2023e	FY2024e	FY2025e
Revenue (QR mn)	1,519	1,592	1,723	1,754
Growth	16%	5%	8%	2%
EPS (QR)	0.41	0.37	0.47	0.49
Growth	7%	-9%	26%	5%
P/E (x)	7.1x	7.9x	6.2x	6.0x
DPS (QR)	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.12

Source: Company data, QNB FS estimates; Note: All data based on current number of shares

Key Data

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Current Market Price (QR)	2.912
Dividend Yield (%)	3.4
Bloomberg Ticker	GWCS QD
ADR/GDR Ticker	N/A
Reuters Ticker	GWCS.QA
ISIN	QA000A0KD6H9
Sector*	Transportation
52wk High/52wk Low (QR)	4.310/2.890
3-m Average Volume (mn)	1.1
Mkt. Cap. (\$ bn/QR bn)	0.5/1.7
EV (\$ bn/QR bn)	1.1/3.9
Shares Outstanding (mn)	586.0
FO Limit* (%)	100.0
Current Institutional FO* (%)	3.6
1-Year Total Return (%)	(29.7)
Fiscal Year End	December 31

Source: Bloomberg (as of October 29, 2023), *Qatar Exchange (as of October 26, 2023); Note: FO is foreign ownership

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QNB FS 3Q2023 Estimates and Comparisons

Income Statement (QR 000)	3Q2022	2Q2023	3Q2023	3Q2023e	A Vs. E	YoY	QoQ
Revenue	390,598.328	373,255.191	349,555.215	382,474.594	-8.6%	-10.5%	-6.3%
YoY	20.6%	1.5%	-10.5%	-2.1%			
QoQ	6.2%	-9.6%	-6.3%	2.5%			
Logistics	261,866.623	242,462.761	246,297.234	254,100.974	-3.1%	-5.9%	1.6%
Freight Forwarding	125,489.269	127,350.966	99,849.836	124,932.157	-20.1%	-20.4%	-21.6%
Rental Income From Investment Property	2,445.444	2,452.848	2,452.849	2,452.848	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Others	796.992	988.616	955.296	988.616	-3.4%	19.9%	-3.4%
Direct Costs	(280,286.856)	(258,703.412)	(238,834.413)	(264,863.66)	-9.8%	-14.8%	-7.7%
Gross Profit	110,311.472	114,551.779	110,720.802	117,610.938	-5.9%	0.4%	-3.3%
General & Administration expenses	(33,884.838)	(34,915.011)	(32,952.636)	(35,787.886)	-7.9%	-2.8%	-5.6%
Operating Profit	76,426.634	79,636.768	77,768.166	81,823.051	-5.0%	1.8%	-2.3%
Finance Income	14.187	136.630	1,043.795	186.158	460.7%	7257.4%	664.0%
Finance Costs	(13,500.760)	(24,462.556)	(26,341.865)	(25,974.342)	1.4%	95.1%	7.7%
Other Income	175.696	147.087	2,125.188	367.718	477.9%	1109.6%	1344.9%
Net Impairment Loss On Trade Receivables	(863.000)	(575.000)	(599.000)	(575.000)	4.2%	-30.6%	4.2%
EBT	62,252.757	54,882.929	53,996.284	55,827.585	-3.3%	-13.3%	-1.6%
Taxes	(553.314)	(303.090)	(171.441)	(348.810)	-50.8%	-69.0%	-43.4%
Net Income	61,699.443	54,579.839	53,824.843	55,478.775	-3.0%	-12.8%	-1.4%
YoY	6.1%	-8.5%	-12.8%	-10.1%			
QoQ	3.4%	-13.4%	-1.4%	1.6%			
Non-Controlling Interest	2,288.562	1,245.843	770.789	1,238.101	-37.7%	-66.3%	-38.1%
Net Income to Equity	59,410.881	53,333.996	53,054.054	54,240.674	-2.2%	-10.7%	-0.5%
YoY	5.8%	-6.4%	-10.7%	-8.7%			
QoQ	4.2%	-13.3%	-0.5%	1.7%			
NM	15.2%	14.3%	15.2%	14.2%			
EPS (QR)	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09	-2.2%	-10.7%	-0.5%
Provision for Impairment of Trade Receivables	863.000	575.000	599.000	575.000			
Depreciation & Amortization	42,906.876	51,300.638	50,650.342	51,944.974			
EBITDA	119,333.510	130,937.406	128,418.508	133,768.025	-4.0%	7.6%	-1.9%
GM	28.2%	30.7%	31.7%	30.8%			
G&A	8.7%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%			
EBIT	8.7% 19.6%	21.3%	22.2%	9.4 <i>%</i> 21.4%			
EBITDA	19.6% 30.6%	21.3% 35.1%	<i>22.2%</i> 36.7%	21.4% 35.0%			
LDIIDA	50.0%	55.1%	30.7%	35.0%			

Source: Company data, QNB FS Research

Valuation and Key Ratios

Valuation Metrics

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e
Valuation												
EV/EBITDA	9.6x	8.9x	6.6x	6.7x	7.0x	7.4x	7.2x	6.6x	5.4x	4.8x	4.2x	3.5x
P/E	8.3x	7.9x	7.5x	6.8x	7.2x	7.6x	7.1x	7.9x	6.2x	6.0x	5.8x	5.8x
P/CF	3.8x	5.1x	4.6x	5.0x	3.8x	4.9x	4.9x	3.6x	3.6x	3.3x	3.2x	3.2x
P/FCF	N/M	38.6x	6.0x	10.2x	40.8x	-44.3x	-20.5x	19.7x	4.4x	4.0x	3.9x	3.8x
P/BV	1.1x	1.1x	1.0x	1.0x	0.9x	0.8x	0.8x	0.7x	0.7x	0.6x	0.6x	0.5x
Dividend Yield	5.5%	5.8%	6.5%	6.9%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.8%	4.1%	4.5%	4.8%
FCF Yield	-29.6%	2.6%	16.7%	9.8%	2.4%	-2.3%	-4.9%	5.1%	22.8%	25.2%	25.9%	26.2%
Source: Company data ONB FS estimates												

Source: Company data, QNB FS estimates

Ratio Analysis

y	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e
Growth (%)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	20266	2027e
Revenue	7.8%	15.5%	25.6%	-0.8%	1.0%	5.7%	16.5%	4.8%	8.2%	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%
Cash Gross Profit	8.6%	15.5 <i>%</i> 19.4%	23.0%	-0.8%	-4.1%	1.1%	7.7%	4.8 <i>%</i> 7.6%	9.1%	0.5%	-0.1%	0.0%
,				-1.3% -2.7%								-0.7%
EBITDA	11.5%	20.1%	26.5%		-3.4%	-1.7%	6.1%	9.2%	10.0%	-0.1%	-0.8%	
EBIT	11.1%	20.3%	18.5%	-0.6%	-2.0%	-3.4%	6.5%	4.2%	14.4%	-1.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%
Net Profit	11.1%	4.8%	5.3%	10.0%	-5.4%	-4.7%	6.5%	-9.3%	25.9%	4.8%	2.2%	0.5%
Cash Flow Per Share	1033.7%	-25.6%	10.5%	-7.6%	30.1%	-21.2%	0.1%	33.8%	1.5%	8.5%	2.5%	1.0%
Free Cash Flow Per Share	N/M	N/M	544.8%	-41.1%	-75.1%	N/M	116.0%	N/M	348.5%	10.5%	3.0%	1.2%
Dividends Per Share	6.7%	6.2%	11.8%	5.3%	-50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	9.1%	8.3%	7.7%
Profitability (%)												
Gross Margin	46.9%	48.4%	47.2%	47.0%	44.7%	42.7%	39.5%	40.5%	40.8%	40.3%	39.7%	39.1%
EBITDA Margin	38.0%	39.5%	39.8%	39.1%	37.4%	34.8%	31.7%	33.0%	33.5%	32.9%	32.2%	31.5%
EBIT Margin	25.4%	26.5%	25.0%	25.1%	24.3%	22.2%	20.3%	20.2%	21.4%	20.7%	20.0%	19.2%
Net Margin	24.2%	22.0%	18.4%	20.4%	19.1%	17.3%	15.8%	13.6%	15.9%	16.3%	16.5%	16.3%
RoAE	14.0%	13.9%	14.0%	14.4%	12.7%	11.3%	11.1%	9.4%	11.0%	10.6%	10.0%	9.4%
RoAA	6.2%	5.6%	5.7%	6.4%	5.9%	5.3%	5.3%	4.4%	5.5%	5.8%	6.0%	6.0%
BEP	6.5%	6.8%	7.8%	7.9%	7.6%	6.9%	6.8%	6.6%	7.4%	7.4%	7.3%	7.1%
RoAIC	6.0%	7.8%	10.0%	9.7%	8.9%	7.9%	7.8%	7.9%	9.7%	10.0%	10.0%	8.7%
RoACE	7.0%	7.7%	9.2%	9.2%	8.8%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%	8.8%	9.0%	8.9%	8.7%
Liquidity												
Current Ratio	2.0x	1.5x	1.8x	1.5x	1.4x	1.1x	1.0x	1.3x	1.3x	1.5x	1.7x	2.3x
Quick Ratio	2.0x	1.5x	1.8x	1.5x	1.4x	1.1x	1.0x	1.2x	1.3x	1.4x	1.7x	2.3x
Cash Ratio	0.9x	0.6x	0.9x	0.6x	0.5x	0.3x	0.2x	0.3x	0.3x	0.4x	0.6x	1.0x
	0.54	0.04	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.04	0.114	0.04	0.04	0.14	0.04	1.07
Debt Ratios												
Debt-to-Equity	1.2x	1.1x	1.0x	0.8x	0.8x	0.8x	0.8x	0.8x	0.6x	0.4x	0.3x	0.2x
Long-Term Debt-to-Equity	1.1x	1.0x	0.9x	0.7x	0.7x	0.6x	0.6x	0.6x	0.5x	0.3x	0.2x	0.2x
EBITDA Interest Coverage	8.4x	7.2x	5.8x	6.1x	8.7x	9.4x	10.0x	6.1x	7.7x	10.1x	13.4x	17.1x
Net Debt-to-EBITDA	4.3x	3.7x	2.6x	2.5x	2.8x	3.1x	3.2x	2.9x	2.1x	1.4x	0.8x	0.2x
Debt-to-Capital	0.6x	0.5x	0.5x	0.5x	0.5x	0.4x	0.4x	0.4x	0.4x	0.3x	0.2x	0.2x
Valuation												
EV/EBITDA	9.6x	8.9x	6.6x	6.7x	7.0x	7.4x	7.2x	6.6x	5.4x	4.8x	4.2	7 5
P/E		8.9x 7.9x	6.6x 7.5x					6.6x 7.9x	5.4x 6.2x		4.2x	3.5x 5.8x
	8.3x			6.8x	7.2x	7.6x	7.1x			6.0x	5.8x	
P/CF	3.8x	5.1x	4.6x	5.0x	3.8x	4.9x	4.9x	3.6x	3.6x	3.3x	3.2x	3.2x
P/FCF	N/M	38.6x	6.0x	10.2x	40.8x	-44.3x	-20.5x	19.7x	4.4x	4.0x	3.9x	3.8x
P/BV	1.1x	1.1x	1.0x	1.0x	0.9x	0.8x	0.8x	0.7x	0.7x	0.6x	0.6x	0.5x
Dividend Yield	5.5%	5.8%	6.5%	6.9%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.8%	4.1%	4.5%	4.8%
FCF Yield	-29.6%	2.6%	16.7%	9.8%	2.4%	-2.3%	-4.9%	5.1%	22.8%	25.2%	25.9%	26.2%
Source: Company data, QNB FS estimates												

Detailed Financial Statements

Income Statement (In QR mn)	FY2022e	FY2023e	FY2024e	FY2025e	FY2026e	FY2027e
Revenue	1,519	1,592	1,723	1,754	1,778	1,803
YoY Growth	16%	5%	8%	2%	1%	1%
Direct Costs	(919)	(947)	(1,020)	(1,047)	(1,072)	(1,098)
Gross Profit	600	645	704	707	706	706
Gross Margin	39%	41%	41%	40%	40%	39%
General and Administrative Expenses	(119)	(120)	(126)	(130)	(133)	(137)
EBITDA	481	525	578	577	573	569
YoY Growth	6%	9%	10%	0%	-1%	-1%
EBITDA Margin	32%	33%	34%	33%	32%	32%
Depreciation and Amortization	(172)	(203)	(210)	(214)	(218)	(222)
EBIT	309	322	368	363	355	347
YoY Growth	7%	4%	14%	-1%	-2%	-2%
EBIT Margin	20%	20%	21%	21%	20%	19%
Net Finance Costs and Other Income	(57)	(97)	(86)	(67)	(53)	(43)
PBT	252	224	282	296	302	304
Taxes	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Net Income	249	223	280	294	300	302
Minority Interest	10	6	7	7	7	8
Net Income to Equity	240	217	273	286	293	294
YoY Growth	7%	-9%	26%	5%	2%	1%
Net Margin	16%	14%	16%	16%	16%	16%
EPS (QR)	0.41	0.37	0.47	0.49	0.50	0.50
DPS (QR)	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.14
Payout Ratio	24%	27%	24%	25%	26%	28%

Source: Company data, QNB FS estimates

Balance Sheet (In QR mn)	FY2022e	FY2023e	FY2024e	FY2025e	FY2026e	FY2027e
Non-Current Assets						
PP&E, WIP & Right of Use Assets	3,596	3,776	3,654	3,529	3,399	3,265
Investment Properties	41	42	42	43	43	43
Intangible Assets & Goodwill	117	116	116	116	116	115
Available-for-Sale Investments/Other	18	18	18	18	18	18
Total Non-Current Assets	3,772	3,952	3,831	3,705	3,576	3,442
Current Assets						
Inventories	16	16	18	18	19	19
Trade and Other Receivables	748	742	800	817	828	840
Bank Balances and Cash	238	290	287	337	457	631
Total Current Assets	1,002	1,048	1,105	1,172	1,303	1,490
Total Assets	4,774	5,000	4,936	4,877	4,879	4,932
Total Shareholders' Equity	2,232	2,385	2,592	2,807	3,022	3,233
Non-Controlling interests	12	18	25	32	39	47
Non-Current Liabilities						
Lease Liabilities & Others	208	223	238	254	269	285
Loans and Borrowings	1,269	1,482	1,167	915	718	652
Employee Benefits & Others	58	62	67	71	76	80
Total Non-Current Liabilities	1,535	1,767	1,473	1,240	1,063	1,017
Current Liabilities						
Trade Payables	95	95	102	105	107	110
Loans and Borrowings	523	333	315	253	197	66
Accruals, Provisions & Other Payables	351	376	404	416	426	436
Lease Liabilities	11	11	10	10	10	9
Retention Payable	15	15	15	15	15	15
Total Current Liabilities	996	830	846	799	755	636
Total Liabilities	2,531	2,598	2,319	2,039	1,818	1,653
Total Equity & Liabilities	4,774	5,000	4,936	4,877	4,879	4,932

Detailed Financial Statements

Source: Company data, QNB FS estimates

Based on the range for the	mmendations upside / downside offered by the 12- ock versus the current market price	Risk Ratings Reflecting historic and expected price volatility versus the local market average and qualitative risk analysis of fundamentals				
OUTPERFORM	Greater than +20%	R-1	Significantly lower than average			
ACCUMULATE	Between +10% to +20%	R-2	Lower than average			
MARKET PERFORM	Between -10% to +10%	R-3	Medium / In-line with the average			
REDUCE	Between -10% to -20%	R-4	Above average			
UNDERPERFORM	Lower than -20%	R-5	Significantly above average			

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