

# **Singapore REITs Monthly**

Monthly Tracker: August 2019

# SINGAPORE | REAL ESTATE (REIT) | UPDATE

- FTSE S-REIT Index gained +0.4% MTD and +21.7% YTD. Strongest gains were from the healthcare sub-sector (+3.9%) and weakest showing at the hospitality sub-sector (-2.3%).
- Performance in August: Best performer Keppel-KBS US REIT (+5.7%), Worst performer Eagle Hospitality Trust (-10.3%).
- Sector yield spread of 288bps over the benchmark 10-year SGS (10YSGS) yield was at the -1.3 standard deviation (SD) level.
- 3m SOR was flat at 1.75% at 16 August 2019 versus 1.76% at end-July.
- Remain NEUTRAL on S-REITs sector. Sub-sector preferences: Office and Hospitality.

### **SECTOR SNAPSHOT**

S-REIT yield spread briefly crossed above the -1SD level before settling at 288bps (-1.3SD). The 10YRSGS yield fell 14bps MoM, to end at 1.80% while the FTSE S-REIT Index ended at 905.8pts after reaching the YTD-high of 941.7pts in early July.

3-month SOR was 1.75% as at 16 August 2019 from 1.76% at end-July.

Australia-listed **Lendlease** is planning to list a retail REIT. This will be the fourth REIT listing in Singapore this year. Lendlease is a developer-owner-operator of residential, commercial and retail assets.

The proposed merger of **OUE Commercial Trust (OUECT)** and **OUE Hospitality Trust (OUEHT)** was approved by shareholders at the respective EGMs held on 14 August 2019. 95.7% of OUECT shareholders 98.4% of OUEHT shareholders voted in favour of the merger. The expected delisting date of OUEHT units is slated for 30 September 2019.

Development plans for the **Greater Southern Waterfront (GSW)** will comprise 30km of coast line (20,000ha of land) and include 9,000 housing units (public and private). GSW plans include the development of office and recreational space. REITs that have assets in the vicinity include MapleTree Commercial Trust (VivoCity, MapleTree Business City I and PSA Building), Frasers Commercial Trust (Alexandra Point and Alexandra Technopark).

# Outlook/Results update for the quarter ended 30 June 2019 Retail:

The retail sales index (RSI) was slightly negative, falling 0.8% YoY in June 2019 (Figure 4). The weaker retail sector outlook produced mixed results for the REITs under our coverage, with tenant sales falling 0.7% YoY for 1H19 for CMT (Neutral), while FCT (Accumulate) recorded a 2.9% growth YoY for the two months ended May 2019. Both REITs managed to achieve positive rental reversions of 1.8% (CMT) and 3.1% (FCT).

The retail rental index fell 1.5% QoQ as the rental growth in fringe assets were wiped out by falling central rents (Figure 5). We see a clear outperformance of fringe retail assets over their central counterparts, with median prices and rental showing growth for fringe assets while falling for central assets. We also note the narrowing of fringe and central prices and rents.

#### Office:

Office rents and occupancy continued to maintain their upward trajectory, with the rental index up 2.3pts QoQ in 2Q19 and occupancy increasing by 36bps QoQ to 88.5% in 2Q19. Central office median rents still healthy, registering a 3% rise YoY to S\$102psm/mth, while fringe office median rents grew a modest 4.5% YoY to S\$46psm/mth.

Average annual supply of office space coming onto the market from 2019 to 2023 (0.8mnsqft) is 27% less than the 10-year average supply of 1.1mn sqft and should help to support rents and deliver



## 26 August 2019

## **NEUTRAL (Maintained)**

#### INDEX RETURN (%)

	1MTH	3МТН	YTD	1YR
FSTREI RETURN	0.4	7.3	21.7	18.6
FSTREH RETURN	(5.0)	(1.6)	8.0	(1.5)
STI RETURN	(5.6)	(0.4)	5.5	1.6

#### **FSTREI VS. STI**



#### 10-year SGS (%) & 3-month SOR (%)



Source: Bloomberg, PSR

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positive rental reversions. The outlook is positive for CCT (Neutral), with passing rents for 2019 and 2020 on the downtrend, below the current average market rent.

Office transactions have still been buoyant with the property price index at a 22-year high (Figure 11), up 1.3pts QoQ in 2Q19, upheld largely by central office prices.

#### Industrial:

The industrial subsector recorded the highest growth in revenue, NPI and DPU. However, earnings growth was mainly acquisition driven.

Industrial rents and occupancy remained flat YoY in 2Q19. New supply of industrial space coming on to the market in FY19/20 represents 1.6%/3.6% of existing supply and is already 90%/39% precommitted. This should provide industrial rents support amidst the softer economic outlook.

While the manufacturing outlook appears grim, we believe AREIT (Accumulate), with <10% of lease expiring in FY19 and its diversified tenant base of 1,350 tenants is largely protected.

#### Hospitality:

RevPAR across the Singapore hotels portfolio were slightly weaker in 2Q19, on lower average room rates and occupancy, due to the absence of the biennial events such as the Food & Hotel Asia. The global economic uncertainty has resulted in the tightening of corporate budgets, partially mitigated by the uptick in leisure travel which helped to make up for the weaker corporate demand. The increasing popularity of serviced residences (SRs) among leisure travellers, allows SRs to yield up on comparatively higher average room rates (ARRs) for shorter stays.

We note that hospitality REITs with overseas assets performed better. Pure-play Singapore hospitality REITs reported lower distributable income and DPU for 2Q19 and 1H19. The better performance is attributed to the diversification across geographies, where better performance due to event driven factors in certain geographies help to offset the strong competition in other markets.

REITs and trusts with assets in the UK enjoyed better performance (ART (Accumulate), CDLHT), supported by the sporting events and the weaker GBP. However, the more pronounced competition in China and Australia had made for a more challenging quarter for REITs with exposure to these geographies. Japan faces strong hospitality supply coming online, partially mitigated by a strong events calendar (Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the 2020 Olympics). This produced mixed results among REITs with assets in Japan, with ART, FHT and AHT (mainly acquisition driven) performing better than CDLHT.

The two newly listed US hospitality trusts, ARA US Trust and Eagle Hospitality Trust, reported results that beat their forecasted DPU by 3.2% and 1.2%. Forecast outperformance was due to better operational performance due to higher occupancy and improvement in RevPAR.



# **INVESTMENT ACTIONS** Remain NEUTRAL on the S-REITs sector

While the S-REIT yield spread is currently below the -1SD level since the global financial crisis, strong rental growth should offset any adverse effects from rising interest rates.

We maintain NEUTRAL on the S-REITs sector, with selective sub-sector preferences.

## Top-down view (unchanged)

We like the Commercial and Hospitality sub-sectors due to tapering supply after the surge in supply in the prior two to three years. We are cautious on the Retail sub-sector as retail sales and shopper footfall both leave much to be desired.

## Tactical bottom-up view (unchanged)

REITs that can better weather through the rising interest rate environment would be those with:

- 1) Low gearing; 2) High-interest coverage; 3) Long weighted average debt to maturity; and
- 4) A high proportion of debt on fixed interest rates

Figure 1: S-REITs under our coverage

	PSR RATING	PSR TARGET PRICE (S\$)
ASCOTT RESIDENCE TRUST	ACCUMULATE	1.36
CAPITALAND MALL TRUST	NETURAL	2.68
FRASERS CENTREPOINT TRUST	ACCUMULATE	2.77
CAPITALAND RETAIL CHINA TRUST	ACCUMULATE	1.66
DASIN RETAIL TRUST <sup>1</sup>	ACCUMULATE	0.94
CAPITALAND COMMERCIAL TR	NEUTRAL	2.18
ASCENDAS REAL ESTATE INV TR	ACCUMULATE	3.31
MAPLETREE INDUSTRIAL TRUST	NEUTRAL	2.03
KEPPEL DC REIT	NEUTRAL	1.71
CACHE LOGISTICS TRUST	NEUTRAL	0.75
EC WORLD REIT <sup>1</sup>	BUY	0.87

1Covered by PSR on the SGX Stockfacts Scheme

Source: PSR

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Covered by PSR under the 'SGX Stockfacts' scheme

# MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Figure 2: FTSE Straits Times REIT Index Yield Spread over 10YSGS

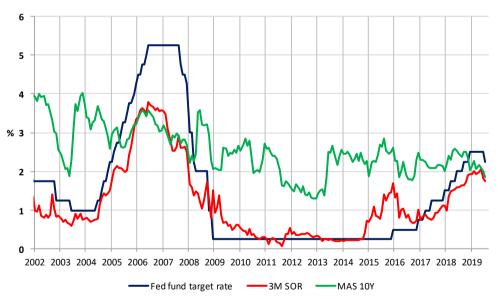


The S-REIT yield spread as at 23 August was 263bps, 1.3SD below the cumulative average yield spread.

The FTSE REIT Index, at 905.8pts, was at the 2.2SD level (not shown).

Source: Bloomberg, PSR

Figure 3: Fed Fund Rates vs SG rates

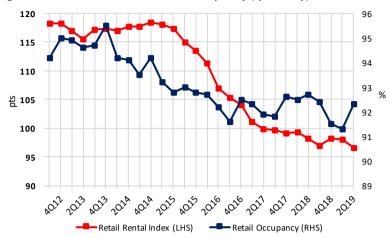


July saw the first fed rate cut since 2008. Following the 25bps fed rate cut, the target fed rate was 2.25% at end-July, while the 3M SOR and 10YSGS fell 7bps and 14bps to 1.76% and 1.86% respectively.

Source: Bloomberg, PSR

### **RETAIL**

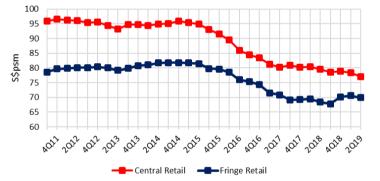
Figure 4: Retail - Rental Index and Occupancy (quarterly)



Source: CEIC, PSR

	Retail Rental Index (4Q1998=100)	Retail Occupancy (%)
2Q19	96.5	92.3
2Q18	98.2	92.7

Figure 5: Retail – Median Rental per Month – Central vs Fringe (quarterly)



Source: CEIC, PSR

	Central Retail (S\$psm/mth)	Fringe Retail (S\$psm/mth)
2Q19	77.0	69.9
2Q18	79.6	68.4

The rental index fell 1.5% QoQ, from 98.0pts to 96.5pts in 2Q19. Retail occupancy fell 100bps QoQ to 92.3%.

Fringe retail median rents are playing catch-up to central retail median rents, with the gap between the fringe and central median rents narrowing from \$\$7.90psm/mth in 1Q19 to \$\$7.10psm/mth in 2Q19. This compares to the \$\$11.20psm/mth disparity between fringe and central median rents a year ago.

Fringe retail assets seem to be outperforming their central counterparts, registering YoY growth in rents in the past three consecutive quarters while central rents recorded continue their downward trend.

Figure 6: Retail – Median Rental per Month (YoY%) (Quarterly)



Source: CEIC, PSR

Figure 7: Retail - Property Price Index (quarterly)



Source: CEIC. PSR

Retail Price Index (4Q1998=100)		Central Retail Price Index (4Q1998=100)	Fringe Retail Price Index (4Q1998=100)
2Q19	110.8	95.7	122.6
2Q18	110.5	99.3	123.4

Figure 8: SG Retail Sales YoY% (excl. Motor Vehicle Sales) (monthly)



Source: CEIC, PSR

	RSI (excl. motor vehicles)	RSI (Dept stores)	RSI (Supermarkets)	RSI (Fashion)	F&B Index
Jun-19	-0.8	-0.1	0.9	4.2	4.5
Jun-18	-2.7	-4.9	-1.4	1.0	3.1

Once again, we note the clear divergence between the fringe and central retail assets. Compared to a year ago, fringe property prices remained flat while central prices was 3.6% lower.

Retail sales (excluding motor vehicle sales) declined 0.8% YoY in June. The RSI (excl. MV) growth has been in the red since the December 2018. June's figures were dragged down the Furniture & Household Equipment (-9.7%) and Computer & Telcom Equipment (-7.4%).

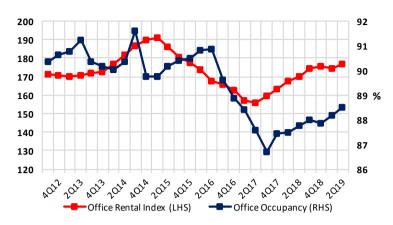
The F&B index was up 4.5 YoY in June. All segments recorded growth, with better performance coming from Fast Food Outlets (+5.9%) and Restaurants (+5.0%).

occupancy grew by 0.7ppts.



# OFFICE

Figure 9: Office - Rental Index and Occupancy (quarterly)

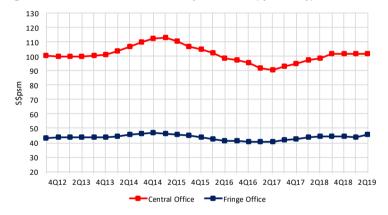


Source: CEIC, PSR

	Office Rental Index (4Q1998=100)	Office Occupancy (%)
2Q19	176.8	88.5
2Q18	170.3	87.8

Office rents holding steady after the run-up in 2017. Current rents are 6.5pts higher than a year ago while

Figure 10: Office - Median Rental per Month (quarterly)

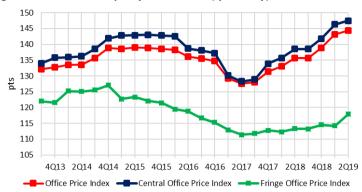


Source: CEIC, PSR

	Central Office (S\$psm/mth)	Fringe Office (S\$psm/mth)
2Q19	102	46
2Q18	99	44

Central office median rents still healthy, registering a 3% rise YoY to S\$102psm/mth, while fringe office median rents grew a modest 4.5% YoY to S\$46psm/mth.

Figure 11: Office - Property Price Index (quarterly)



Source: CEIC, PSR

	Office Price Index (4Q1998=100)	Central Office Price Index (4Q1998=100)	Fringe Office Price Index (4Q1998=100)
2Q19	144.4	147.5	117.9
2Q18	135.6	138.5	113.3

The buoyant office property price index has largely been supported by central office prices. 2Q19 index ended at 144.4pts, a 22-year high, 8.8pts and 1.3pts higher YoY and QoQ.

# **INDUSTRIAL**

Figure 12: Industrial - Rental Index and Occupancy( quarterly)



Industrial rents and occupancy remained flat YoY in 2Q19.

New supply of industrial space coming on to the market in FY19/20 represents 1.6%/3.6% of existing supply and is already 90%/39% pre-committed. This should provide industrial rents support amidst the softer economic outlook.

Figure 13: Industrial - Property Price Index (quarterly)



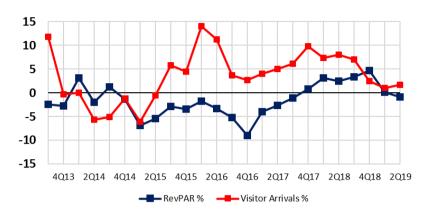
Source: CEIC, PSR

	Industrial Price Index (4Q2012=100)	Multi-user Factory Price Index (4Q2012=100)	Single-user Factory Price Index (4Q2012=100)
2Q19	89.8	93.4	79.7
2Q18	89.9	93.8	79.3

Similarly, industrial prices have been flat across the board in 2Q19.

# **HOSPITALITY**

Figure 14: SG Tourist Arrivals/Hotel RevPAR YoY% (quarterly)



on both on lower occupancy and average room rates.

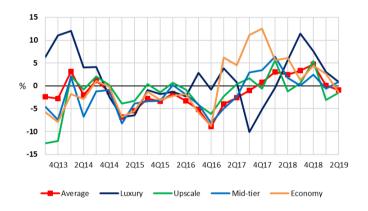
Average RevPAR declined 0.9% YoY, to \$\$179, in June,

Visitor arrivals recorded a 1.7% growth YoY in June.

Source: CEIC, PSR

	Visitor Arrivals	Hotel RevPAR (S\$)	Hotel Occupancy	Hotel Average
2Q19	1,545,105	179	84.1	212
2Q18	1,519,867	180	84.5	213
YoY%	1.66%	-0.88%		-0.42%

Figure 15: Hotel RevPAR YoY% by segments (quarterly)



Source: CEIC, PSR

S\$ per room/night	Average	Luxury	Upscale	Mid-tier	Economy
2Q19	179	373	210	143	87
2Q18	180	370	213	142	89
YoY%	-0.9%	0.8%	-1.5%	0.8%	-1.4%

Average RevPAR\* fell by 0.9% YoY in 2Q19, with RevPAR growth in the Luxury and Mid-tier segments being offset by the Upscale and Economy segments.

\*Revenue per available room (RevPAR) is a function of the average room rate and occupancy.

# Figure 15: S-REIT Universe

\*Note: Coloured columns below indicate the critical attributes of REITs that should be looked from a capital management perspective. The colour coding represents the scale of the figure for each respective column, green representing better than average and red representing worse than average.

	Mkt. Cap. (S\$mn)	Price (S\$)	PSR RATING	PSR TARGET PRICE (S\$)	P/NAV	Trailing yield (%)	Total Returns 1M (%)	Total Returns YTD (%)	Gearing (%)	Approximate % of debt on fixed rate	ROE (%)	Interest Coverage Ratio (x)	Effective interest Rate (%)	% debt expiring in current FY	% debt expiring in next FY
Healthcare															1
PARKWAYLIFE REAL ESTATE	1,851	3.06			1.6	4.3	4.6	16.3	36.9	88.0	14.1	13.5	0.91	1.4	10.7
FIRST REAL ESTATE INVT TRUST	811	1.02			1.0	8.4	3.1	5.9	34.5	60.2	9.0	4.7	4.10	0.0	0.0
Average					1.32	6.35	3.87	11.14	35.29	74.10	11.56	9.12	2.73		
Hospitality							0.0	0.0							
ASCOTT RESIDENCE TRUST	2,830	1.30	ACCUMULATE	1.36	1.0	5.7	3.3	18.7	32.8	88.0	5.9	4.4	2.45	1.0	16.0
CDL HOSPITALITY TRUSTS	1,927	1.59			1.1	5.7	0.6	13.6	35.2	66.0	5.2	5.1	2.28	15.3	7.8
FRASERS HOSPITALITY TRUST	1,326	0.70			1.0	6.5	(4.3)	4.6	35.0	69.4	4.4	4.9	2.50	0.0	0.0
OUE HOSPITALITY TRUST	1,341	0.73			1.0	6.6	(4.0)	4.3	38.5	71.0	5.2	4.2	2.60	0.0	39.8
FAR EAST HOSPITALITY TRUST	1,268	0.66			0.8 1.1	5.9	(2.5)	8.1 21.1	39.8 34.1	75.0 75.0	4.9	3.3	2.90 1.90	3.2 0.0	10.0 11.5
ASCENDAS HOSPITALITY TRUST	1,217 599	1.07				5.6	0.2 (10.3)				7.6	4.5			29.3
ARA US HOSPITALITY TRUST	490	0.69 0.87			0.8 NA	NA NA	(10.3)	NA NA	37.5 31.9	93.0 83.0	NA NA	2.8 6.0	3.90 3.95	7.0 NA	29.3 NA
	450	0.87			0.95	6.01	-2.32	11.73	35.59	77.55	5.53	4.17	2.47	IVA	INA
Average Retail					0.95	0.01	0.0	0.0	33.38	//.55	5.55	4.17	2.47		
CAPITALAND MALL TRUST	9,664	2.62	NETURAL	2.68	1.3	4.5	0.8	8.6	31.5	93.0	8.4	4.1	3.18	8.8	8.0
MAPLETREE NORTH ASIA COMM	4,263	1.34		2.00	0.9	5.6	(1.5)	19.3	36.9	87.0	14.6	4.1	2.43	7.0	7.0
SPH REIT	2,824	1.09			1.2	5.1	1.0	6.8	26.2	71.8	5.3	6.4	2.64	19.2	25.6
FRASERS CENTREPOINT TRUST	3,024	2.71	ACCUMULATE	2.77	1.3	3.4	3.5	15.5	23.5	67.0	8.2	6.0	2.70	5.7	21.1
STARHILL GLOBAL REIT	1,647	0.76			0.9	5.9	(1.9)	11.4	36.1	90.0	3.9	3.6	3.28	11.3	12.9
CAPITALAND RETAIL CHINA TRUST	1,688	1.53	ACCUMULATE	1.66	0.9	7.3	(0.7)	14.0	33.8	87.0	9.8	4.8	2.99	3.7	9.6
SASSEUR REIT	941	0.79			0.8	8.3	(0.5)	27.6	29.7	12.4	NA	4.8	4.45	0.0	0.0
LIPPO MALLS INDONESIA RETAIL	666	0.23			0.8	8.4	(2.3)	20.1	35.2	58.1	6.5	4.3	6.28	10.4	24.2
DASIN RETAIL TRUST <sup>1</sup>	474	0.85	ACCUMULATE	0.94	0.6	8.3	(0.6)	5.4	33.0	36.0	(5.4)	3.0	3.41	0.9	38.2
BHG REIT	354	0.70			0.8	7.4	0.0	2.7	25.5	10.0	12.8	4.4	4.40	NA	NA
Average					0.94	6.41	-0.22	13.15	31.33	61.23	7.10	4.53	3.36		
Commercial							0.0	0.0							
CAPITALAND COMMERCIAL TR	8,019	2.08	NEUTRAL	2.18	1.1	4.2	(0.5)	12.9	27.0	92.0	5.6	3.9	2.75	10.0	8.8
MAPLETREE COMMERCIAL TR	6,110	2.11			1.3	4.4	2.8	18.7	33.1	80.5	13.1	4.7	3.00	2.1	19.3
SUNTEC REIT	5,428	1.94			0.9	5.0	(5.6)	5.5	38.0	85.0	5.1	2.0	36	1.0	8.5
KEPPEL REIT	4,212	1.24			0.9	4.4	(4.3)	7.7	29.4	92.0	2.5	1.0	2.87	0.0	19.0
OUE COMMERCIAL REIT	1,491	0.52			0.7	5.7	(3.8)	8.2	39.3	76.1	7.6	2.5	3.50	0.0	8.9
FRASERS COMMERCIAL TRUST	1,479	1.63			1.1	5.9	1.6	13.1	29.3	90.2	10.6	3.0	3.57	0.0	25.1
MANULIFE US REIT	1,251	0.90			1.1	3.4	0.0	17.9	37.1	96.1	4.7	4.3	3.45	0.0	9.6
CROMWELL EUROPEAN REIT	1,269	0.50			1.0	7.2	0.0	17.2	35.4	85.9	NA	8.7	1.34	52.6	35.4
PRIME US REIT	836	0.91			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
KEPPEL-KBS US REIT	647	0.79			1.0	7.6	5.7	24.8	37.7	76.8	NA	4.6	3.78	1.2	0.0
IREIT GLOBAL	479	0.76			1.0	7.7	2.7	6.7	36.2	100.0	NA	7.0	1.50	0.0	0.0
Average					1.02	5.55	-0.47	14.01	32.67	87.46	7.03	3.07	3.15		
Industrial	0.404	2.05	ACCUPALITATE	2.24	4.5	F 2	0.0	0.0	35.0	75.0	0.4	4.0	2.22	45.0	42.4
ASCENDAS REAL ESTATE INV TR	9,494	3.05	ACCUMULATE	3.31	1.5	5.3	0.0	16.7	35.9	75.3	8.4	4.8	3.23	15.0	13.4
MAPLETREE LOGISTICS TRUST	5,642	1.55	NEUTDAL	2.02	1.3	5.1	(0.0)	19.2	36.8	83.0	10.8	4.8	2.80	4.0	11.0
MAPLETREE INDUSTRIAL TRUST	4,594	2.27	NEUTRAL	2.03	1.5	5.4	2.4	13.9	33.4	79.5	9.5	6.5	3.00	5.4	8.2
FRASERS LOGISTICS & INDUSTRIAL KEPPEL DC REIT	2,676	1.19	NEUTRAL	1 71	1.3	6.6	(0.4)	14.1	35.4 31.9	63.0	10.9 10.8	6.1	2.10	17.1	27.3
ESR REIT	2,380 1,759	1.76 0.52	NEUTRAL	1.71	1.7 1.1	4.0 5.5	3.3 2.9	18.5 8.7	31.9	80.0 89.2	10.8 (15.9)	8.0 3.7	1.70 3.98	17.1	1.8 12.5
AIMS AMP CAPITAL INDUSTRIAL	1,001	1.44			1.1	7.2	(0.2)	8.5	33.5	86.8	5.3	3.8	3.60	16.3	32.9
CACHE LOGISTICS TRUST	788	0.73	NEUTRAL	0.75	1.1	8.0	(0.2)	8.5 8.7	33.5	70.9	2.9	3.8	3.86	5.8	32.9 9.6
SOILBUILD BUSINESS SPACE REIT	700 597	0.75	NEUTRAL	0.75	0.9	9.1	(1.7)	7.1	37.3	94.9	7.4	4.1	3.56	38.5	36.5
	597	0.75	BUY	0.87	0.9	8.3	1.2	17.6	32.4	100.0	5.9	4.1	4.15	NA	NA
EC WORLD REIT			BU I	0.67					30.9					11.0	
SABANA SHARIAH COMP IND REIT	469	0.45			0.8 1.20	6.4 6.43	1.2 0.56	11.5 13.14	30.9 35.01	70.0 81.15	9.6 5.96	3.2 4.79	4.10	11.0	33.1
Average					1.20	6.43	U.56	13.14	35.01	81.15	5.96	4.79	3.32		

Source: Bloomberg (Updated 21 July 2019), Returns calculated as at end-July 2019, Debt data from latest available Company Results/Prospectuses, PSR

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Covered by PSR on the SGX Stockfacts Scheme



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