

Wednesday, 17 April 2024

COMPANY UPDATE

Singapore Airlines (SIA SP)

Mar 24: Pax Data Slightly Better Than Expected, But Cargo Misses

SIA's Mar 24 pax data came in slightly better our expectation, but cargo missed. Overall, earnings impacts from the beat in pax data and the miss in cargo data would largely offset each other by our estimate. We have maintained our 4QFY24 core earnings estimate at S\$553m, but shifted a S\$1.11b disposal gain related to the Air India-Vistara deal to FY25. Maintain HOLD and target price of S\$6.31.

WHAT'S NEW

- Singapore Airlines (SIA) released its Mar 24 operation data on 15 Apr 24.
- Maintain our 4QFY24 core earnings estimate at S\$553m.

MAR 24 OPERATION DATA

	Monthly comparison				Quarterly comparison					
			Chg		Chg	4Q	3Q	Chg	4Q	Chg
	Mar-24	Feb-24	mom	Mar-23	yoy	FY24	FY24	mom	FY23	yoy
Pax operation										
Pax capacity (m seat-km)	14,467	13,644	+6.0%	12,530	+15.5%	42,854	42,043	+1.9%	36,488	+17.4%
as % of pre-covid (Jan 20)	91.4%	86.2%	+5.2ppt	79.2%	+12.2ppt	90.3%	88.5%	+1.7ppt	76.9%	+13.4ppt
Pax load (m pax-km)	12,695	11,779	+7.8%	11,148	+13.9%	37,056	37,093	-0.1%	31,926	+16.1%
as % of pre-covid (Jan 20)	94.9%	88.0%	+6.8ppt	83.3%	+11.6ppt	92.3%	92.4%	-0.1ppt	79.5%	+12.8ppt
Pax load Factor	87.7%	86.3%	+1.4ppt	89.0%	-1.3ppt	86.5%	88.2%	-1.8ppt	87.5%	-1ppt
Cargo operation										
Cargo capacity (m tonne-km)	862	762	+13.1%	813	+6.0%	2,484	2,504	-0.8%	2,279	+9.0%
as % of pre-covid	87.1%	95.3%	-8.2ppt	82.2%	+4.9ppt	91.2%	88.7%	+2.5ppt	83.7%	+7.5ppt
Cargo load (m tonne-km)	518	432	+19.7%	448	+15.6%	1,419	1,390	+2.1%	1,222	+16.1%
as % of pre-covid	83.7%	97.9%	-14.2ppt	72.4%	+11.3ppt	89.1%	80.2%	+8.9ppt	76.9%	+12.2ppt
Cargo load factor	60.0%	56.7%	+3.3ppt	55.1%	+5ppt	57.1%	55.5%	+1.6ppt	53.6%	+3.5ppt

Source: SIA, UOB Kay Hian

ESSENTIALS

- Key highlights for Mar 24 operational data:
 - Slightly better-than-expected pax data. Mar 24 pax load stood at 94.9% of prepandemic levels, slightly better than our projected 94.0%. Notably, this slight beat in pax load was achieved on the back of lower-than-projected capacity recovery of 91.4% (our projection: 93.5%), but stronger-than-expected pax load factors at 87.7% (our projection: 85.0%). This higher-than-expected pax load factor implies more favourable cost economy for the per unit pax load than our expectation.
 - Cargo data improving, but slower than our projection. Overall, cargo data was still on a recovery trend, with cargo load rising 19.7% yoy, reaching 83.7% of pre-pandemic levels in Mar 24. However, the trajectory of recovery was behind our projection of a 91.2% recovery for Mar 24, as we were expecting a steeper curve of recovery with confidence from the strong Feb 24 data. Mar 24 cargo load factor of 60% was in line with our projection, but on the back of lower-than-expected cargo capacity recovery of 87.1% (our projection: 95%).

KEY FINANCIALS

RETTIMATORES					
Year to 31 Mar (S\$m)	2022	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net turnover	7,615	17,775	19,231	20,458	20,652
EBITDA	1,390	4,773	4,992	4,366	3,926
Operating profit	(610)	2,692	2,792	1,954	1,467
Net profit (rep./act.)	(962)	2,157	2,653	2,688	1,094
Net profit (adj.)	(962)	2,157	2,653	1,576	1,094
EPS (S\$ cent)	(32.4)	72.6	89.3	53.0	36.8
PE (x)	n.m.	8.6	7.0	11.7	16.9
P/B (x)	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	21.2	4.8	4.6	5.4	6.8
Dividend yield (%)	0.0	6.1	6.1	5.9	4.0
Net margin (%)	(12.6)	12.1	13.8	13.1	5.3
Net debt/(cash) to equity (%)	63.1	7.9	13.2	16.3	37.3
ROE (%)	n.a.	10.2	14.8	16.8	6.9

Source: Singapore Airlines, Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

HOLD

(Maintained)

Share Price S\$6.22 Target Price S\$6.31 Upside +1.4%

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Singapore's flag carrier, flying to more than 130 destinations in over 30 countries before the pandemic. Frequently ranked as Best Airline by magazines and ranking agencies.

STOCK DATA

GICS sector	Industrials
Bloomberg ticker:	SIA SP
Shares issued (m):	2,973.4
Market cap (S\$m):	18,494.3
Market cap (US\$m):	13,554.9
3-mth avg daily t'over (US\$m):	30.1

Price Performance (%)

52-week l	nigh/low	. ,	S\$7.9	1/S\$5.74
1mth	3mth	6mth	1yr	YTD
(2.5)	(4.7)	(1.7)	8.9	(5.2)
Major S	hareholders	s		%
Temasek	Hldgs		55.4	
FY25 NA	V/Share (S\$)			5.36
FY25 Net	Debt/Share (0.90	

PRICE CHART



Source: Bloomberg

ANALYST(S)

Roy Chen, CFA +65 6590 6627 roychen@uobkayhian.com



Wednesday, 17 April 2024

- **Network recovery:** As of Mar 24, SIA's passenger network covered 118 destinations (Feb 24: 121), compared with 137 destinations before the pandemic.
- Mar 23 data overall neutral to our earnings estimate. We estimate the positiveness from the beat in pax data and the negativeness from the miss in cargo data to largely neutralise each other in our estimation of SIA's 4QFY24 earnings.
- Maintain 4QFY24 core earnings estimate at \$\$553m. Our 4QFY24 earnings estimate of \$\$553m is 16% lower qoq (3QFY24: \$\$659m) and 8% lower yoy (4QFY23: \$\$602m), reflecting moderation of pax and cargo yields as well as taking into account cost pressure.
- Air India-Vistara deal still ongoing, likely to complete in 1HFY25. As of 16 Apr 24, the Air India-Vistara deal is still ongoing, behind our previously expected completion by end-FY24.
 We understand from management that the deal is still progressing, pending regulatory approvals from the India side. We now expect the deal to complete in 1HFY25.
- Benefitting from continued return of international visitors to Singapore. On a seasonally and month-length adjusted basis, international visitor arrivals to Singapore continued to recover, from 92.5% of pre-pandemic levels in Feb 24 to 94.6% in Mar 24. There was some pullback in the recovery of visitor arrivals from mainland China from Feb 24's 93.0% from Mar 24's 82.5%, as Feb 24 saw a spike of Chinese visitor arrivals immediately after Singapore's implementation of visa-free scheme for Chinese visitors. The pullback in Chinese visitors have been more than offset by the growth in visitor numbers from Southeast Asia and Oceania. We believe SIA will meet its guidance of a 100% pax load recovery within FY25.

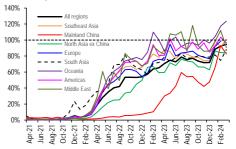
EARNINGS REVISION/RISK

- Maintain our core earnings forecast but shift the Vistara stake disposal gain to FY25. Reflecting the later-than-expected closure of the Vistara deal, we have shifted SIA's recognition of an estimated S\$1.11b accounting gain related to the Vistara disposal from FY24 to FY25. Our updated headline earnings forecasts are at S\$2.65b/S\$2.69b/S\$1.09b for FY24/25/26. Excluding the Vistara stake disposal gain, our FY25 earnings forecast would have been S\$1.58b. The yoy decline in core earnings in FY25 and FY26 reflects our expectations of further yield moderation in FY25-26 driven by the catch-up of competition.
- **Key risks:** a) Weaker-than-expected macroeconomic environment dampening air travel and air cargo demand, and b) competition catching up faster than expected.

VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

- Maintain HOLD with an unchanged target price of \$\$6.31. Our target price is based on
 1.18x FY25F P/B, pegged to 0.5SD above long-term historical mean of 1.09x. The +0.5SD
 peg reflects our recognition for SIA's outstanding track record demonstrated during the
 pandemic and the likely improved long-term outlook given Singapore's new visa-free
 arrangement with China. Current price of \$\$6.22 implies 1.16x FY25F P/B, 0.4SD above
 SIA's long-term historical mean P/B.
- Possible surprise from a good FY24 final dividend. Even with the expected hoh lower earnings performance in 2HFY24, our FY24 full-year earnings estimate of S\$2.65b is still a record high level in SIA's history. We reckon that SIA will at least sustain the same 28 S cents final dividend as last year and may pay up to 35 S cents if it maintains a 50% payout ratio. Assuming a 28-35 S cents final dividend for FY24 and an unchanged 10 S cents interim dividend for 1HFY25, SIA's current price of S\$6.22 implies a 6.1-7.2% yield in the next 12 months.

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS TO SINGAPORE CONTINUED TO RISE, REACHING 94.6% OF PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS IN MAR 24 (FEB 24: 92.5%)



Source: Singapore Tourism Board

JET FUEL PRICE HOVERED IN A NARROW BAND SINCE END-23; SIA'S 4QFY24 AVREAGE FUEL COST PER UNIT OF CAPACITY LIKELY 5-10% BELOW 3QFY24 LEVELS



Source: S&P Global

HISTORICAL P/B BAND



Source: Bloomberg

TARGET PRICE REFERENCE TABLE

		FY23	FY24F	FY25F
Adjusted BVPS		S\$4.45	S\$5.19	S\$5.34
P/B	peg		Target price)
+2.0SD	1.45x	S\$6.44	S\$7.55	S\$7.76
+1.5SD	1.36x	S\$6.04	S\$7.08	S\$7.27
+1.0SD	1.27x	S\$5.64	S\$6.61	S\$6.79
+0.5SD	1.18x	S\$5.24	S\$6.14	S\$6.31
Mean	1.09x	S\$4.84	S\$5.67	S\$5.82

*Adjusted BVPS has factored in full redemption of Mandatory

Convertible Bonds

Source: UOB Kay Hian



Wednesday, 17 April 2024

PROFIT & LOSS					BALANCE SHEET				
Year to 31 Mar (S\$m)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F	Year to 31 Mar (S\$m)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net turnover	17,774.8	19,231.5	20,457.6	20,652.3	Fixed assets	27,687.0	28,436.6	30,075.7	32,568.5
EBITDA	4,772.6	4,992.0	4,366.5	3,926.1	Other LT assets	2,114.9	3,341.9	3,461.9	3,601.9
Deprec. & amort.	2,080.5	2,200.0	2,412.9	2,459.3	Cash/ST investment	16,731.5	8,373.5	5,923.8	4,386.8
EBIT	2,692.1	2,792.0	1,953.6	1,466.8	Other current assets	2,567.8	2,607.8	2,911.6	2,990.3
Total other non-operating income	(16.8)	37.7	0.0	0.0	Total assets	49,101.2	42,759.8	42,373.0	43,547.4
Associate contributions	(31.2)	115.0	120.0	140.0	ST debt	2,547.7	2,547.7	2,547.7	2,547.7
Net interest income/(expense)	(7.3)	248.2	(151.7)	(263.0)	Other current liabilities	11,123.2	11,121.3	10,879.9	10,115.9
Pre-tax profit	2,636.8	3,192.9	3,033.9	1,343.8	LT debt	8,613.7	6,052.3	6,052.3	7,952.3
Tax	(473.5)	(516.8)	(306.3)	(204.6)	Other LT liabilities	6,566.8	6,522.0	6,522.0	6,522.0
Minorities	(6.5)	(23.0)	(40.0)	(45.0)	Shareholders' equity	19,858.3	16,103.7	15,919.8	15,914.8
Net profit	2,156.8	2,653.1	2,687.6	1,094.1	Minority interest	391.5	412.9	451.3	494.7
Net profit (adj.)	2,156.8	2,653.1	1,575.6	1,094.1	Total liabilities & equity	49,101.2	42,759.8	42,373.0	43,547.4
CASH FLOW					KEY METRICS				
Year to 31 Mar (S\$m)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F	Year to 31 Mar (%)	2023	2024F	2025F	2026F
Operating	9,130.1	3,097.6	4,627.0	2,878.8	Profitability				
Pre-tax profit	2,636.8	3,192.9	3,033.9	1,343.8	EBITDA margin	26.9	26.0	21.3	19.0
Tax	(5.2)	(516.8)	(306.3)	(204.6)	Pre-tax margin	14.8	16.6	14.8	6.5
Deprec. & amort.	2,080.5	2,200.0	2,412.9	2,459.3	Net margin	12.1	13.8	13.1	5.3
Associates	(94.8)	45.0	40.0	60.0	ROA	4.4	5.8	6.3	2.5
Working capital changes	4,036.6	(305.7)	(545.2)	(842.7)	ROE	10.2	14.8	16.8	6.9
Non-cash items	326.1	(1,071.9)	1,112.0	0.0					
Other operating cashflows	150.1	(445.9)	(1,120.3)	63.0	Growth				
Investing	(134.0)	(1,702.0)	(3,202.0)	(4,182.0)	Turnover	133.4	8.2	6.4	1.0
Capex (growth)	31.5	(606.0)	(1,471.8)	(2,320.8)	EBITDA	243.4	4.6	(12.5)	(10.1)
Capex (maintenance)	(1,715.5)	(1,774.0)	(2,008.2)	(2,059.2)	Pre-tax profit	n.a.	21.1	(5.0)	(55.7)
Investments	(35.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	Net profit	n.a.	23.0	1.3	(59.3)
Proceeds from sale of assets	1,219.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	Net profit (adj.)	n.a.	23.0	(40.6)	(30.6)
Others	365.3	678.0	278.0	198.0	EPS	n.a.	23.0	(40.6)	(30.6)
Financing	(6,213.4)	(9,753.6)	(3,874.7)	(233.7)					
Dividend payments	(297.1)	(1,128.8)	(1,128.8)	(1,099.1)	Leverage				
Issue of shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Debt to total capital	41.1	34.4	39.0	41.6
Proceeds from borrowings	(981.8)	(2,561.4)	0.0	1,900.0	Debt to equity	130.8	69.8	52.5	64.0
Others/interest paid	(4,934.5)	(6,063.4)	(2,745.9)	(1,034.6)	Net debt/(cash) to equity	7.9	13.2	16.3	37.3
Net cash inflow (outflow)	2,782.7	(8,358.0)	(2,449.7)	(1,537.0)					
Beginning cash & cash equivalent	13,762.7	16,327.6	7,969.6	5,519.9					
Changes due to forex impact	(217.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0					
3 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	` -/								

16,327.6

7,969.6

5,519.9

3,982.9

Ending cash & cash equivalent



Wednesday, 17 April 2024

Disclosures/Disclaimers

This report is prepared by UOB Kay Hian Private Limited ("UOBKH"), which is a holder of a capital markets services licence and an exempt financial adviser in Singapore.

This report is provided for information only and is not an offer or a solicitation to deal in securities or to enter into any legal relations, nor an advice or a recommendation with respect to such securities.

This report is prepared for general circulation. It does not have regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any recipient hereof. Advice should be sought from a financial adviser regarding the suitability of the investment product, taking into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any person in receipt of the recommendation, before the person makes a commitment to purchase the investment product.

This report is confidential. This report may not be published, circulated, reproduced or distributed in whole or in part by any recipient of this report to any other person without the prior written consent of UOBKH. This report is not directed to or intended for distribution to or use by any person or any entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or any other jurisdiction as UOBKH may determine in its absolute discretion, where the distribution, publication, availability or use of this report would be contrary to applicable law or would subject UOBKH and its connected persons (as defined in the Financial Advisers Act, Chapter 110 of Singapore) to any registration, licensing or other requirements within such jurisdiction.

The information or views in the report ("Information") has been obtained or derived from sources believed by UOBKH to be reliable. However, UOBKH makes no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of such sources or the Information and UOBKH accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising from the use of or reliance on the Information. UOBKH and its connected persons may have issued other reports expressing views different from the Information and all views expressed in all reports of UOBKH and its connected persons are subject to change without notice. UOBKH reserves the right to act upon or use the Information at any time, including before its publication herein.

Except as otherwise indicated below, (1) UOBKH, its connected persons and its officers, employees and representatives may, to the extent permitted by law, transact with, perform or provide broking, underwriting, corporate finance-related or other services for or solicit business from, the subject corporation(s) referred to in this report; (2) UOBKH, its connected persons and its officers, employees and representatives may also, to the extent permitted by law, transact with, perform or provide broking or other services for or solicit business from, other persons in respect of dealings in the securities referred to in this report or other investments related thereto; (3) the officers, employees and representatives of UOBKH may also serve on the board of directors or in trustee positions with the subject corporation(s) referred to in this report. (All of the foregoing is hereafter referred to as the "Subject Business"); and (4) UOBKH may otherwise have an interest (including a proprietary interest) in the subject corporation(s) referred to in this report.

As of the date of this report, no analyst responsible for any of the content in this report has any proprietary position or material interest in the securities of the corporation(s) which are referred to in the content they respectively author or are otherwise responsible for.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES FOR U.S. PERSONS

This research report was prepared by UOBKH, a company authorized, as noted above, to engage in securities activities in Singapore. UOBKH is not a registered broker-dealer in the United States and, therefore, is not subject to U.S. rules regarding the preparation of research reports and the independence of research analysts. This research report is provided for distribution by UOBKH (whether directly or through its US registered broker dealer affiliate named below) to "major U.S. institutional investors" in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). All US persons that receive this document by way of distribution from or which they regard as being from UOBKH by their acceptance thereof represent and agree that they are a major institutional investor and understand the risks involved in executing transactions in securities.

Any U.S. recipient of this research report wishing to effect any transaction to buy or sell securities or related financial instruments based on the information provided in this research report should do so only through UOB Kay Hian (U.S.) Inc ("UOBKHUS"), a registered broker-dealer in the United States. Under no circumstances should any recipient of this research report effect any transaction to buy or sell securities or related financial instruments through UOBKH.

UOBKHUS accepts responsibility for the contents of this research report, subject to the terms set out below, to the extent that it is delivered to and intended to be received by a U.S. person other than a major U.S. institutional investor.

The analyst whose name appears in this research report is not registered or qualified as a research analyst with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and may not be an associated person of UOBKHUS and, therefore, may not be subject to applicable restrictions under FINRA Rules on communications with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst account.



Wednesday, 17 April 2024

Analyst Certification/Regulation AC

Each research analyst of UOBKH who produced this report hereby certifies that (1) the views expressed in this report accurately reflect his/her personal views about all of the subject corporation(s) and securities in this report; (2) the report was produced independently by him/her; (3) he/she does not carry out, whether for himself/herself or on behalf of UOBKH or any other person, any of the Subject Business involving any of the subject corporation(s) or securities referred to in this report; and (4) he/she has not received and will not receive any compensation that is directly or indirectly related or linked to the recommendations or views expressed in this report or to any sales, trading, dealing or corporate finance advisory services or transaction in respect of the securities in this report. However, the compensation received by each such research analyst is based upon various factors, including UOBKH's total revenues, a portion of which are generated from UOBKH's business of dealing in securities.

Reports are distributed in the respective countries by the respective entities and are subject to the additional restrictions listed in the following table.

ollowing table	
General	This report is not intended for distribution, publication to or use by any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or
	located in any country or jurisdiction where the distribution, publication or use of this report would be contrary to
	applicable law or regulation.
Hong Kong	This report is distributed in Hong Kong by UOB Kay Hian (Hong Kong) Limited ("UOBKHHK"), which is regulated by the
	Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong. Neither the analyst(s) preparing this report nor his associate, has
	trading and financial interest and relevant relationship specified under Para. 16.4 of Code of Conduct in the listed
	corporation covered in this report. UOBKHHK does not have financial interests and business relationship specified under
	Para. 16.5 of Code of Conduct with the listed corporation covered in this report. Where the report is distributed in Hong
	Kong and contains research analyses or reports from a foreign research house, please note:
	(i) recipients of the analyses or reports are to contact UOBKHHK (and not the relevant foreign research house) in Hong
	Kong in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, the analysis or report; and
	(ii) to the extent that the analyses or reports are delivered to and intended to be received by any person in Hong Kong
	who is not a professional investor, or institutional investor, UOBKHHK accepts legal responsibility for the contents of the
	analyses or reports only to the extent required by law.
Indonesia	This report is distributed in Indonesia by PT UOB Kay Hian Sekuritas, which is regulated by Financial Services Authority
	of Indonesia ("OJK"). Where the report is distributed in Indonesia and contains research analyses or reports from a
	foreign research house, please note recipients of the analyses or reports are to contact PT UOBKH (and not the relevant
	foreign research house) in Indonesia in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, the analysis or report.
Malaysia	Where the report is distributed in Malaysia and contains research analyses or reports from a foreign research house, the
	recipients of the analyses or reports are to contact UOBKHM (and not the relevant foreign research house) in Malaysia,
	at +603-21471988, in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, the analysis or report as UOBKHM is the
<u> </u>	registered person under CMSA to distribute any research analyses in Malaysia.
Singapore	This report is distributed in Singapore by UOB Kay Hian Private Limited ("UOBKH"), which is a holder of a capital
	markets services licence and an exempt financial adviser regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Where the
	report is distributed in Singapore and contains research analyses or reports from a foreign research house, please note:
	(i) recipients of the analyses or reports are to contact UOBKH (and not the relevant foreign research house) in Singapore
	in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, the analysis or report; and
	(ii) to the extent that the analyses or reports are delivered to and intended to be received by any person in Singapore
	who is not an accredited investor, expert investor or institutional investor, UOBKH accepts legal responsibility for the
Theiland	contents of the analyses or reports only to the extent required by law.
Thailand	This report is distributed in Thailand by UOB Kay Hian Securities (Thailand) Public Company Limited, which is regulated by the Securities and Evaluation of Thailand
United	by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand. This report is being distributed in the UK by UOB Kay Hian (U.K.) Limited, which is an authorised person in the meaning
Kingdom	of the Financial Services and Markets Act and is regulated by The Financial Conduct Authority. Research distributed in
United	the UK is intended only for institutional clients.
United States of	This report cannot be distributed into the U.S. or to any U.S. person or entity except in compliance with applicable U.S.
States of	laws and regulations. It is being distributed in the U.S. by UOB Kay Hian (US) Inc, which accepts responsibility for its
America	contents. Any U.S. person or entity receiving this report and wishing to effect transactions in any securities referred to in
('U.S.')	the report should contact UOB Kay Hian (US) Inc. directly.

Copyright 2024, UOB Kay Hian Pte Ltd. All rights reserved.

http://research.uobkayhian.com

RCB Regn. No. 197000447W