

THE FOCUS LIST

Public Bank rules the roost

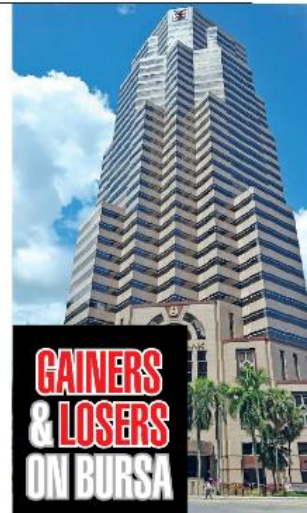


It was a tough and volatile 2016 on Bursa Malaysia, but 48 listed companies bucked the trend and delivered stronger profits. Our final Focus List for the year features the companies which successfully navigated the headwinds.

The year's best performer in terms of profits was Public Bank Bhd which chalked up a net profit of RM5.1 bil for financial year ended Dec 31, 2015, up 12.23% from RM4.6 bil a year earlier. For the first nine months of FY ending Dec 31, 2016, the second largest bank in market capitalisation booked a net profit of RM3.8 bil, up 5.5% from RM3.6 bil in the previous corresponding period.

Following the group's Q3FY16 results, MIDF Research upgraded its call on Public Bank to buy, with a target price of RM22.20. "We are impressed that the group has managed to weather the current weak environment," it said, highlighting the group's good asset quality, robust loan growth and net interest margins holding steady for the upgrade. The counter closed at RM19.80 on Dec 16.

RHB Research in a recent report said while it was neutral on the banking sector, it has a buy call on Public Bank with a target price of RM22. It said it preferred banks which offer investors solid asset quality and better earnings predictability, and viewed Public Bank as best capable of meeting these.



Best-performing stocks by sector 2015/16

Rank	Company	Sector	Net profit latest FY (RM'000)	Net profit previous FY (RM'000)	Net profit growth	Revenue latest FY (RM'000)	Revenue previous FY (RM'000)	FY end	Current cumulative YTD net profit (RM'000)	Previous cumulative YTD net profit (RM'000)
1	ML Global	Construction	10,174	118	8,526.58%	37,026	8,460	12/2015	2,988	2,766
2	TRC Synergy	Construction	30,829	2,435	1,166.08%	767,966	814,956	12/2015	20,673	21,872
3	Ekovest	Construction	155,606	20,036	677.80%	793,582	438,015	06/2016	40,094	3,124
4	Thpic	Construction	23,978	7,130	236.30%	50,503	50,234	06/2016	1,582	3,628
5	Benelec Holdings	Construction	18,065	8,474	113.06%	323,083	180,540	06/2016	6,186	1,861
1	Federal Furniture Holdings (M)	Consumer products	6,462	2,043	216.30%	101,736	66,759	12/2015	3,380	4,031
2	CI Holdings	Consumer products	38,348	13,093	192.89%	1,305,383	399,278	06/2016	7,201	13,802
3	Pomosa Prosonic Industries	Consumer products	22,079	7,496	186.89%	310,008	252,133	12/2015	13,330	11,555
4	Tek Seng Holdings	Consumer products	28,657	11,389	151.42%	389,517	232,111	12/2015	55,146	12,565
5	Chee Weh Corporation	Consumer products	6,967	2,897	140.49%	92,352	95,262	06/2016	1,288	2,757
1	Syarikat Takaful Malaysia	Finance	163,306	138,735	17.71%	1,788,574	1,652,639	12/2015	135,642	122,432
2	LPI Capital	Finance	320,989	283,016	13.42%	1,284,586	1,169,693	12/2015	355,773	218,778
3	Public Bank	Finance	5,121,239	4,563,340	12.23%	19,181,850	16,860,071	12/2015	3,748,166	3,614,068
4	RCE Capital	Finance	39,571	34,205	9.30%	162,286	131,186	03/2016	35,930	19,452
5	AEON Credit Service (M)	Finance	228,222	215,726	5.79%	965,234	871,600	02/2016	117,921	106,727
1	Evergreen Fibreboard	Industrial products	94,091	1,377	5,866.46%	1,012,017	918,789	12/2015	51,691	72,843
2	Ge-Shen Corporation	Industrial products	14,993	2,530	492.61%	137,441	85,000	12/2015	9,888	12,697
3	Comfort Gloves	Industrial products	23,485	4,257	451.63%	229,838	155,217	07/2016	9,404	9,098
4	Concrete Engineering Products* Metrod Holdings	Industrial products	12,006	2,367	407.23%	192,375	222,539	08/2016	12,006	2,367
5	TIME dotCom	IPC	465,375	172,402	169.94%	682,364	596,283	12/2015	292,774	428,817
2	YTL Power International	IPC	1,178,456	920,398	28.04%	10,245,174	11,858,093	06/2016	150,604	174,134
3	Lingkaran Trans Kota Holdings	IPC	174,097	137,889	26.26%	416,235	380,733	03/2016	120,018	82,364
1	Gopeng	Plantation	7,970	1,017	683.32%	9,237	9,491	12/2015	3,679	6,830
2	Innoprise Plantations	Plantation	20,459	7,566	170.42%	115,045	57,814	12/2015	24,085	16,432
3	Kuala Lumpur Kepong*	Plantation	1,683,140	884,038	90.39%	16,505,810	13,649,991	09/2016	1,683,140	884,038
4	Batu Kawan*	Plantation	1,776,895	970,468	83.10%	16,969,251	14,055,308	09/2016	1,776,895	970,468
5	Boustead Plantations	Plantation	72,259	52,418	37.85%	615,195	717,321	12/2015	175,182	75,081
1	Eweh	Properties	15,916	2,885	451.68%	87,732	44,640	12/2015	14,678	11,171
2	Sunsuria*	Properties	49,260	13,324	269.71%	202,401	85,563	09/2016	49,260	13,324
3	Selanger Properties	Properties	893,680	196,895	201.52%	99,491	101,121	10/2015	9,964	109,861
4	Eco World Development Group*	Properties	129,281	43,856	194.79%	2,546,437	1,712,061	10/2015	129,281	43,856
5	OSK Holdings	Properties	569,802	204,255	178.97%	760,735	59,928	12/2015	171,772	484,764
1	Amanah Harta Tanah PNB	REITs/Hotels	12,305	3,887	216.56%	13,299	13,437	12/2015	3,595	2,493
2	UDA REIT	REITs/Hotels	110,317	49,116	124.60%	91,935	90,387	12/2015	34,692	35,776
3	AmFIRST REIT	REITs/Hotels	68,373	38,340	78.33%	99,794	106,889	03/2016	11,481	15,932
4	Shangri-La Hotels Malaysia	REITs/Hotels	138,266	85,792	61.16%	500,253	513,679	12/2015	70,465	87,908
5	MRCB-QULL REIT	REITs/Hotels	60,698	40,283	50.68%	115,174	70,249	12/2015	45,852	37,646
1	D&O Green Technologies	Technology	17,560	3,716	372.55%	433,109	421,324	12/2015	13,818	13,894
2	Wvocom International Holdings	Technology	10,207	3,703	175.65%	97,945	66,008	12/2015	64,618	6,206
3	Unisem (M)	Technology	157,248	67,750	132.10%	1,260,425	1,038,279	12/2015	111,830	96,136
4	Pentamaster Corporation	Technology	12,290	6,043	103.38%	83,604	81,047	12/2015	18,785	10,442
5	GHL Systems	Technology	10,242	6,371	60.76%	211,380	164,933	12/2015	13,762	7,107
1	Complete Logistic Services	Trading/Services	16,338	1,027	1,490.85%	125,696	127,198	03/2016	6,438	7,612
2	Cycle & Carriage Bintang	Trading/Services	52,125	10,334	404.40%	1,580,024	922,463	12/2015	37,461	41,931
3	Imity Corporation	Trading/Services	3,062	668	358.38%	75,228	44,246	12/2015	4,058	1,624
4	Metronic Global	Trading/Services	4,061	1,241	227.24%	36,335	33,057	12/2015	6,234	484
5	EA Technique (M)	Trading/Services	37,741	14,234	165.15%	549,051	155,657	12/2015	30,492	26,194