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Analyst's Notebook

Ukraine / Equity Strategy

The PFTS Becoming Increasingly Representative

On the first trading day of May, Ukraine's major equity index was extended due to the inclusion of two stocks: Bank Aval, the second largest bank in the country in terms of assets and Luganskteplovoz, Ukraine's largest producer of locomotives.

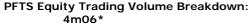
PFTS Index Basket

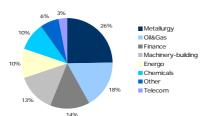
Company	Ticker	MCap, USD mn 03.05.06	FF*	FF MCap USD mln	Share	Share 03.05.06	Trad 4m06 U
Ukrtelecom	UTEL	4,007.1	7.1%	284.5	20.3%	18.5%	411100
Ukrnafta	UNAF	3,262.9	8.0%	261.0	18.4%	16.8%	
Bank Aval	BAVL	1,764.1	6.5%	114.7	-	7.4%	
NPR	NITR	700.5	38.7%	271.1	18.9%	17.2%	
Zaporizhstal	ZPST	683.4	19.6%	133.9	10.1%	9.1%	
Stirol	STIR	510.0	17.9%	91.3	7.8%	6.6%	
Zakhidenergo	ZAEN	396.5	29.9%	118.6	8.2%	7.6%	
Centrenergo	CEEN	299.2	21.7%	64.9	4.7%	4.3%	
Dniproenergo	DNEN	294.3	23.9%	70.3	5.1%	4.7%	
Kievenergo	KIEN	191.8	37.3%	71.5	4.9%	4.5%	
Donbasenergo	DOEN	141.9	14.2%	20.1	1.6%	1.4%	
Luganskteplovoz	LTPL	109.6	24.0%	26.3	-	1.8%	

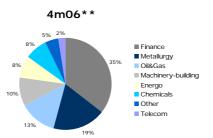
Source: PFTS; * FF as defined by the PFTS index committee

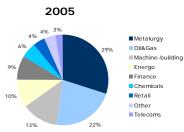
Trading Vol	Annualized
4m06 USD mln	Turnover
13.9	1.2%
24.3	2.8%
39.1	9.6%
10.3	5.1%
11.6	3.6%
2.9	1.2%
7.8	9.2%
6.1	7.2%
8.9	10.2%
10.8	16.4%
0.9	2.1%
14.6	43.5%

Both stocks come from segments that have long lacked representation on the index - banking and machine-building. Both these sectors record significant trading on the PFTS. During the first four months of 2006 machine-building maintained its 13% share from last year in terms of total equity trading volumes on the PFTS. Even excluding the block deals posted by five banks in 2006, the banking sector still gained an additional 5% in the total volume breakdown. If we add volumes related to three market share placements by the banks, the sector would account for more than a third of the trades posted on the PFTS in the first four months of 2006:









Source: PFTS

* Block trades in Avtokrazbank, Rodovidbank, Megabank, Ukrinbank and Ukrgazbank excluded

** Block trades in Avtokrazbank and Ukrgazbank excluded as considered to be non-market



Overall, the expansion of the index will allow it to give a more accurate picture of the market. In our view, banking's \sim 7% share in the equity index is reflective of the real economy. At the same time, machine-building remains under-represented – in our opinion at the expense of inflated telecom and electricity presence in the index basket:

Industry Breakdown in PFTS index

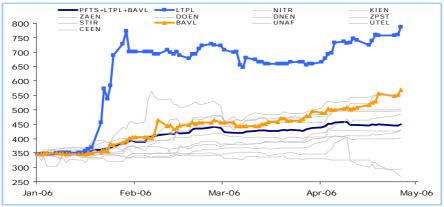
	As of 28.04.06	As of 3.05.06
Metals	29.0%	26.3%
Electricity	22.9%	21.1%
Telecom	20.3%	18.5%
Oil & Gas	18.4%	16.8%
Banking	-	7.4%
Chemicals	7.8%	6.6%
Machine-building	-	1.8%

Impact On The Index

As the PFTS index is MCap-weighted and adjusted for free float, the relative significance of Aval and Lugnskteplovoz in the index will be different. BAVL is a Ukrainian *blue chip*, or Primiere League stock in Concorde's classification. With its MCap of about USD 2 bln and FF in excess of USD 100 mln, it is the third largest stock in the PFTS basket – and provides the index with adequate sensitivity to the banking sector. LTPL's impact will be rather limited in scope, due to its smaller size. In any case, recent market history, as suggested by the chart below, implies bullish support for the index from both stocks at least in the short term.

We simulated the PFTS index with BAVL and LTPL in the basket starting from the first trading day of January, 2006. Early inclusion of these two stocks would have improved index performance by 3.1% -- to 29.8% YTD.

PFTS Index Movers, 4M06



Source: PFTS; Concorde Capital calculations

Note: PFTS simulated with LTPL+BAVL in the basket starting Jan, 10 2006, mid-market prices were used; all charts normalized to PFTS index value on Jan, 10 2006

The contribution of BAVL would have been the fourth largest among twelve index constituents (see the chart below). LTPL's contribution, notwithstanding its spectacular YTD performance, would have been rather subdued, due to relatively low free float MCap:

Growth Attribution Analysis (PFTS simulated with LTPL and BAVL)



Source: PFTS, Concorde Capital calculations



BAVL - a good choice. LTPL? - not necessarily

How good was the selection of stocks by the PFTS index committee?

Bank Aval, the most liquid and largest traded stock in the sector, fits perfectly as a proxy to the Ukrainian banking segment. Other banks on the PFTS are either illiquid stocks or the PFTS is used as a platform just to record the results of private share placements in fact conducted through warrant programs. Hefty volumes can be deceiving, as they only reflect the initial placement of blocks on the market, not regular trading. With this in mind BAVL's volumes really stand out (they are larger than any other PFTS-constituent):

Company	Ticker	Trading Volumes, USD mln	Nature of Trading
Rodovid Bank	RODB	69.5	Market PP
Ukrinbank	UKIB	46.4	Market PP
Bank Aval	BAVL	39.1	Market
Megabank	MEGA	16.6	Market PP
Ukrsotsbank	USCB	15.1	Market
AvtoKrazBank	AKRB	12.5	Non-market
Ukrgazbank	UGZB	1.8	Non-market

Source: PFTS, Concorde Capital estimates

Things are not as simple with the machinery segment. There could be several candidates for the PFTS index in this sector.

Machine-building Stocks at Glance

	MCap Bid-Ask		FF as of 5/05/2006		Trading Volumes, USD mln			Growth		
Company	USD mln 5/05/2006	Spread	%	USD mln	4m06	2H05	1H05	4m06	2H05	1H05
MZVM	207.6	7.7%	15%	31.1	4.8	16.0	4.4	26.8%	46.5%	63.1%
SMASH	328.7	3.0%	25%	82.2	7.7	7.9	6.2	36.9%	32.2%	36.6%
MSICH	167.4	3.9%	5%	8.4	1.4	3.1	10.8	-9.4%	6.6%	9.8%
TATM	176.1	11.2%	6%	9.7	2.9	0.2	2.8	55.9%	2.6%	11.5%
LTPL	120.7	8.3%	24%	29.0	14.6	7.6	3.6	127.9%	48.3%	312.5%
DRMZ	80.1	37.5%	12%	9.6	0.9	3.4	n/a	44.4%	22.7%	Not listed

Source: PFTS; Concorde Capital calculations

The index committee was definitely driven by LTPL's impressive growth rates combined with strong and growing volumes. Nevertheless, two stocks, MZVM and SMASH, represent quite feasible alternatives.

SMASH is the largest among its peers, with very sound and stable trading volumes, relatively tight spreads and the longest history of (real) trading on the PFTS. MZVM demonstrated volumes comparable to LTPL in the second half of last year and has maintained this high level. Additionally, the company is twice as big as LTPL in terms of MCap and has similar free float.

MZVM and LTPL are both examples of quick appreciation for long neglected stocks. On the other side, SMASH is a mature stock. So if SMASH had been included, the index would have gotten pure exposure to the real sector. In the case of MZVM – and more so LTPL – exposure to the industry is additionally flavored with company-specific exposure, as both stocks are less mature in terms of the stock market.

Probably a combination of SMASH with LTPL or MZVM would be the best idea, given underrepresentation of the sector in the index. However, keeping in mind what we have said, we consider LTPL's inclusion justified.



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