

Confectionery

ULKER (ULKER TI/ULKER.IS)

Outperform

Better days are ahead...

- On the back of upward revisions to our earnings estimates and applying no additional visibility discount, we are raising our TP to TL152 from TL50, implying a 90% upside potential while raising our rating to "Outperform".
- We had been applying a 65% discount to our target EV/EBITDA multiple, considering the company-specific risks. Following the improvement in corporate actions about the balance sheet, corporate structure and governance, we removed this discount.
- We believe improvement in Ulker's financials will become apparent in 2024E. Ulker is currently trading at 6.5x 2024E P/E, implying a 58% discount compared to its global peers.

What has changed? (1) We are currently more comfortable about Ulker's balance sheet's health and visibility. (2) Ulker Biscuit's merger with its subsidiaries will also be positive for further visibility and corporate structure. (3) Organic growth is the primary target and no new acquisition is in sight. (4) Management appears committed to lowering debt ratios and improving liquidity (5) We are also receiving positive signals from Yıldız Holding, Ulker's parent company, regarding its financial health and operational performance.

We foresee 57% topline growth and 6.3% net margin in 2024E. We believe the high debt burden due to acquisitions overshadowed Ulker's solid operating performance in 2022-2023. We expect Ulker to increase its net sales by 57% to TL71.3bn in 2024E, on top of 61% growth in 2023 and 125% growth in 2022. We also expect EBITDA margin to stabilize at 19.0%, considering that cost pressures will be mitigated by price adjustments. Ulker is the market leader in snacking sector in Turkey with a 35% market share. Domestic revenues constitute 66% of Ulker's consolidated revenues whereas international revenues comprise the remaining 34% as of 2Q23. Ulker is the market leader in the biscuit category in Saudi Arabia and Egypt and #2 in the chocolate category in Kazakhstan. Ulker aims to be #1 or #2 in the Middle East and North Africa.

Financials, TL mn	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E
Net Sales	9,401	12,537	28,197	45,499	71,313
growth	20%	33%	125%	61%	57%
EBITDA	1,621	2,328	5,467	8,727	13,522
Net Income	1,016	-464	-353	414	4,520
EBITDA Margin	17.2%	18.6%	19.4%	19.2%	19.0%
Net Margin	10.8%	-3.7%	-1.3%	0.9%	6.3%
Dividend Yield	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
EV/EBITDA	33.8x	23.5x	10.x	6.3x	4.1x
P/E	29.1x	-63.6x	-83.7x	71.3x	6.5x

Cemal Demirtas

90%

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valuation	
Current Price, TL	80.00
12-mth Target Price, TL	152.00
Expected Dividend Yield	0%
Expected Price Appreciation	90%

Total Upside

Stock Data MCap, TL mn 29,542 MCap, US\$ mn 1,061 Enterprise Value, TLmn 54,779 Free float, % 39% Average Daily Tumover, TLmn 1,101



Share Perf.	1 M	3M	1Y
Absolute	4%	113%	272%
Relative to ISE100	4%	73%	70%

Source: Ata Invest Estimates



Income Statement (TL mn)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Revenues	12,537	28,197	45,499	71,313	98,650	124,006
EBITDA	2,328	5,467	8,727	13,522	18,312	23,009
Depreciation & other adjustments	230	349	488	686	851	1,060
EBIT	2,098	5,118	8,239	12,836	17,461	21,949
Other income, net	332	741	1,132	409	409	409
Profit/loss from investing activities	5,965	2,274	4,345	1,422	1,584	1,746
Financial income, net	-8,466	-8,051	-11,883	-7,129	-8,264	-8,480
Profit before tax	-71	82	1,833	7,538	11,190	15,624
Profit from continuing operations	-162	200	1,494	5,653	8,393	11,718
Minority interest	-302	-553	-1,079	-1,133	-1,683	-2,349
Reported net income	-464	-353	414	4,520	6,710	9,369
Reported EPS	-1.26	-0.96	1.12	12.24	18.17	25.37
Balance Sheet (TL mn)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash & cash equivalents	3,005	9,255	8,054	20,675	28,329	36,457
Trade receivables	4,688	7,388	13,212	16,442	22,744	28,590
Inventories	3,218	4,996	10,412	12,757	17,723	22,278
Fixed assets	3,641	6,817	8,257	10,563	13,799	17,898
Goodw ill	1,548	2,018	2,880	2,880	2,880	2,880
Other Assets	10,144	7,385	9,614	9,839	10,081	10,337
Total Assets	26,244	37,859	52,429	73,156	95,557	118,440
Financial borrowing	18,177	23,751	31,255	44,246	54,423	62,042
Trade payables	2,270	4,161	7,357	9,290	12,907	16,225
Other liabilities	1,482	2,264	3,447	3,596	3,811	4,039
Minority Interest	1,327	1,997	3,251	4,384	6,067	8,416
Shareholders' Equity	2,987	5,686	7,119	11,639	18,349	27,718
Net Debt	8,211	13,090	20,775	23,455	28,229	30,431
Cash Flow Summary (TL mn)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net earnings before tax & MI	-71	82	1,833	7,538	11,190	15,624
Depreciation	230	349	488	686	851	1,060
Δ in WCR	-3,087	-2,588	-8,044	-3,640	-7,652	-7,084
Taxes	-92	118	-339	-1,884	-2,798	-3,906
CAPEX	-560	-1,387	-1,535	-2,425	-3,354	-4,216
Dividend paid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rights issue	0	0	0	0	0	1
Δ in borrowing	8,789	5,574	7,505	12,991	10,177	7,619
Other cash in/out	-6,029	4,103	-1,108	-644	-759	-971
Cash generated during the year	-819	6,250	-1,200	12,620	7,654	8,128
Cash at the end of the year	3,005	9,255	8,054	20,675	28,329	36,457
Growth	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	33.4%	124.9%	61.4%	56.7%	38.3%	25.7%
EBITDA	43.6%	134.8%	59.6%	54.9%	35.4%	25.7%
Net earnings	-145.7%	-24.0%	-217.4%	990.7%	48.5%	39.6%
Key financial ratios	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
ROE	-10.7%	-8.1%	6.5%	48.2%	44.8%	40.7%
EBITDA margin	18.6%	19.4%	19.2%	19.0%	18.6%	18.6%
Net Margin	-3.7%	-1.3%	0.9%	6.3%	6.8%	7.6%
Net debt/Equity	2.75	2.30	2.92	2.02	1.54	1.10
Net debt/EBITDA	3.53	2.39	2.38	1.73	1.54	1.32
ST borrow ings/T. borrow ings	15.8%	48.0%	18.5%	18.5%	18.5%	18.5%
Equity/Total Assets	16.4%	20.3%	19.8%	21.9%	25.6%	30.5%
Leverage	5.1	3.9	4.1	3.6	2.9	2.3
Interest coverage	0.8	0.9	1.1	2.2	2.6	3.3
Current Ratio	3.1	1.5	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.0
Cash dividend pay-out	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Valuation Matric-	0004	2000	2000	20245	20255	2000
Valuation Metrics	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E
Domestic Revenues Internation Revenues	7,081 5,042	17,999 10,198	30,539	49,061	68,275 30,375	85,970 38,037
	5,042	10,198	14,960 45,499	22,252 71,313	30,375	38,037 134,006
Consolidated Revenues International/Consolidated	12,537 40%	28,197 36%	45,499 33%	71,313 31%	98,650 31%	124,006 31%
international consolidated	40 %	30%	3370	3170	3176	3170

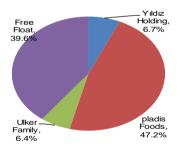
Ulker
Sector: Confectionery

Bloomberg Ticker: ULKER TI Ata Rating: OUTPERFORM

Descriptive Summary Ulker has 79 years of experience in

Turkish confectionery and is the market leader in the snacking category with a 35% market share in Turkey. The company is the leader in the chocolate and biscuit categories with 39% and 33% market shares, respectively, and #2 in the cake (27%) categories in Turkey as of 1H23. The company has the largest production capacity in the domestic market with spread-out facilities. International revenues constituted 34% of Ulker's consolidated revenues in 1H23. The company has operations in S. Arabia, Egypt and Kazakhstan. Since 2011, the company has experienced a major restructuring by consolidating chocolate and cake production companies into biscuit companies. The company simplified traditional channel distribution and consolidated of all sales under the new sales company, Yıldız Holding. In 2022, Ulker acquired Onem Gida and recently merged Ulker Çikolata and Biskot under Ulker Biskuvi.

Ownership Structure



* pladis is fully owned by Yıldız Holding



Investment Thesis: Improvement in corporate governance and earnings momentum in 2024E justify re-rating

After revisions to our estimateS and discount assumptions, we raised our rating to TL152 from TL50 while upgrading our rating to "Outperform" from "Marketperform".

Previously, we had been applying a 65% discount to our target EV/EBITDA multiple, considering the company-specific risks. However, following the improvement in corporate actions about the balance sheet, corporate structure and governance, we decided to remove this discount.

Following upward revisions to our earnings estimates and applying no additional visibility discount, we are raising our TP to TL152 from TL50, implying a 90% upside potential while upgrading our rating to "Outperform".

We believe improvement in Ulker's financials will become apparent in 2024E. Ulker is currently trading at 6.5x 2024E P/E, implying a 58% discount compared to its global peers.

What has changed? (1) We are currently more comfortable about Ulker's balance sheet's health and visibility. (2) Ulker Biscuit's merger with its subsidiaries, Ulker Çikolate (Cholocate) and Biskot (private label) will also be positive for further visibility and corporate structure. (3) Organic growth is the primary target and no new acquisition is in sight. (4) Management appears committed to lowering debt ratios and improving liquidity (5) We are also receiving positive signals from Yıldız Holding, Ulker's parent company, regarding its financial health and operational performance.

6 important reasons behind our high conviction for an "Outperform" rating?

- Improving corporate governance
- Strong positioning in Turkey with an extensive sales network: #1 confectionery company
- High operating margins
- De-leveraging is intact and supported by prudent policies.
- Positive signals from Yıldız Holding, Ulker's parent company.
- Attractive valuation: The latest changes in its balance sheet and improvement in corporate governance justify a significant upside...

In July 2023, Ulker completed Eurobond buy-back of US\$50mn of its existing US\$650mn 6.95% fixed-rate notes due October 2025, using its own cash reserves.

Ulker's solid balance sheet and limited refinancing needs before October 2025 keep us optimistic about its outlook.

Ulker's recent bank debt refinancing and monetization of its securities portfolio and more cautious hedging and treasury policies are also giving positive signals regarding the predictability of its financials.



We believe the worst may have been over by 1H23 and better days are ahead in 2H23 and 2024E.

Although Ulker's balance sheet still appears vulnerable to TL depreciation due to its short FX position and 2.45x net debt/EBITDA, we are more positive about the balance sheet and refinancing of short-term debt with longer-term debt with more than 2-3 year maturity. We are also more positive about the merger with its subsidiaries, Ulker Çikolata and Biskot.

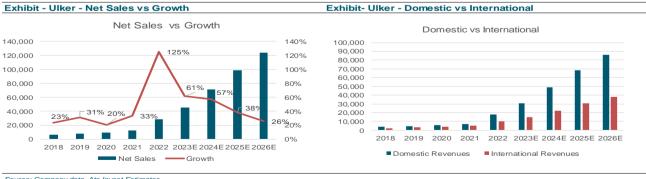
Recall that Onem Gida acquisition had a minus TL3.7bn equity value dilutive impact on Ulker in 3Q21 though it may be a strategic action for Ulker. Ulker Biscuit's merger with its subsidiaries, Ulker Çikolata and Biskot could be a positive catalyst. As of 2Q23, Ulker currently has around US\$271mn net FX short position (US\$150mn+ Euro111mn). As a positive change in the balance sheet, refinancing short-term debt with longer-term debt is also positive for cash flow in the short-run. Considering the potential risk-reward, we are much more constructive about Ulker at current valuations. Thus, we revised our estimates and rating.

We foresee 57% net sales growth and 19.0% EBITDA margin in 2024E

Ulker's net sales surged by 124.9% to TL28.2bn in 2022. Domestic revenues, constituting 60% of net sales, increased by 137.4% to TL16.8bn in 2022 whereas international revenues increased by 102.3% to TL10.2bn during the same period

In 1H23, Ulker's net sales increased by 65.2% y/y to TL19.6bn. During the same period, sales volume decreased by 3.9% to 324.4K tons. Volume decline in 1H23 was mainly due to high base impact, sizing activities and changes in the category/product mix. According to Nielsen& Ipsos date, Ulker remained the market leader in total snacking with 35% market share in Turkey during the last 12 months.

We expect Ulker's net sales to increase to TL45.5bn in 2023E, implying 61% topline growth on top of 125% growth realized back in 2022. We foresee Ulker's net sales to increase by 57% to TL71.3bn in 2024E, supported by 2% volume growth and price increases.



Source: Company data, Ata Invest Estimates

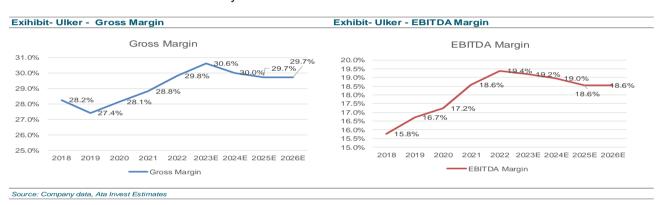


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We foresee 55% EBITDA growth and 19.0% EBITDA margin in 2024E

In 2023E, we expect Ulker to realise 19.2% EBITDA margin, slightly below last year's 19.4% but in line with the management guidance. We foresee that higher operational efficiencies, stable spreads between prices and production costs and potential collaboration in international operations such as cross-production and procurement are probable to mitigate the negative impact of inflationary pressures such as energy, raw material and labour cost increases and EBITDA margin to stabilize at c.19.0% in 2024E.

Considering the strong leadership position in Turkey, we believe Ulker will continue to be competitive against its competitors and reflect the potential cost increases to their product prices. We believe that our EBITDA margin estimate is conservative for 2024E, considering the pricing power of the company in the highly competitive confectionery market.



We expect Ulker's net debt/EBITDA to fall below 2x by 2024E.

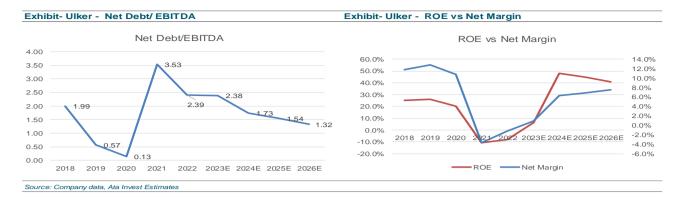
Ulker's net debt increased dramatically from -TL63mn (net cash) in 2Q21 to TL5bn (US\$569mn) in 3Q21 mainly due to cash outflow of US\$446mn related to Onem Gida acquisition on 27 Aug 2021 (TL3.74bn). Recall that Onem Gida acquisition had a -TL3.7bn equity value dilutive impact on Ulker in 3Q21 though it may be a strategic action for Ulker. Ulker's net debt reached US\$689mn by 2Q21 and US\$700mn by 2022-end.

Ulker's net debt increased to TL18.0bn (US\$698mn) in 2Q23 from TL14.0bn (US\$730mn) in 1Q23. Mainly due to TL depreciation and a slight increase in NWC, Ulker's net debt increased by 28% q/q in TL terms but declined 4.4% n US\$ terms. Based on 2Q23-end, Ulker's Adj-Net debt/EBITDA increased to 2.45x in 2Q23 from 2.1x in 1Q23, which is still above 2x but not critical. Please note that we adjusted the net debt for TL1.8bn non-trade receivable from its parent company, Yıldz Holding, recorded in 2Q23.

As of 2Q23, Ulker currently has around US\$271mn net FXshort position (US\$150mn + Euro111mn). As a positive change in the balance sheet, refinancing of short-term debt with longer-term debt is also positive for cash flow in the short-run.

Considering positive cash flow from operations and assuming no acquisition, we expect Ulker's net debt to decline to US\$583mn by 2024-end, implying 1.73x net debt/EBITDA. During the following 3 years, we expect the company to focus on organic growth and assuming no acquisition.





Merger with Ulker Cikolata and Biskot will be value-enhancing...

As of 31 Aug 2023, the merger of Ulker Biskuvi (ULKER) with Ulker Çikolata and Biskot was completed. Ulker's paid-in capital was increased by TL27.28mn to TL369.28mn and the increased amount was given to Ulker Chocolate and Biskot shareholders. Under the merged company, Ulker Chocolate and Biskot shareholders were given 0.7412 and 1.0659 shares, respectively, for each share owned by them.

Ulker - Ownership Structure

Ulker Bisküvi	
Paid-in capital:	TL342.0mn
Ownership Struc	turo
Owner ship Struc	
	Share
pladis Foods Ltd	51.0%
Ulker Family	4.2%
Yıldız Holding	2.0%
Free Float	42.8%

Ulker Çikolata		
Paid-in capital:	TL150mn	
Ownership Stru	cture	
		Share
Ulker Bisküvi		91.7%
Ulker Family		8.3%

Before Merger

Biskot					
Paid-in capital:	TL64.8mn				
Ownership Structure					
	Share				
Ulker Bisküvi	73.9%				
Ulker Family	26.1%				

Ulker Bisküvi	
Paid-in capital:	TL369.3mn
Ownership Struc	
	Share
pladis Foods Ltd*	47.2%
Ulker Family	6.4%
Yıldız Holding	6.7%
Free Float	39.6%

Source:Company data, ** pladis Foods LTD is fully owned by Yıldız Holding

Well-positioned in Turkish confectionery market and ambitious targets in international markets

Ulker's net Ulker has 79 years of experience in Turkish confectionery and is the market leader in the snacking category with a 35% market share in Turkey. The company is the leader in the chocolate and biscuit categories with 39% and 33% market shares, respectively, and #2 in the cake (27%) categories in Turkey as of 1H23. The company has the largest production capacity in the domestic market with spread-out facilities. International revenues constituted 34% of Ulker's consolidated revenues in 1H23. The company has operations in S. Arabia, Egypt and



Kazakhstan. Since 2011, the company has experienced a major restructuring by consolidating chocolate, biscuit and cake production companies under Ulker biskui umbrella. The company simplified traditional channel distribution and consolidated of all sales under the new sales company Horizon, owned by the parent company, Yıldız Holding. Ulker acquired Onem Gıda in 2021 and recently merged Ulker Çikolata and Biskot under Ulker Biskuvi in Aug 2023.

Due to change in our macro estimates, we revised our 2024 estimates.

We revised up our 2023E net sales and EBITDA estimates by 1% and 2%, respectively, to TL45.5bn and TL8.7bn, respectively. We also revised our 2023E net income estimate from -TL314mn loss to TL414mn net income.

We revised up our 2024E net sales and EBITDA estimates by 8% and 20%, respectively, to TL71.3bn and TL13.5bn. We also revised our 2024E net income estimate by 47.6% to TL4.5bn.

Exhibit - ULKER- Earnings Revisions

	Previous		New	Previous		Ne w
TL mn	2023E	Revision	2023E	2024E	Revision	2024E
Net Sales	44,971	1%	45,499	66,055	8%	71,313
Grow th %	59.5%	187 bps	61.4%	46.9%	985 bps	56.7%
EBITDA	8,540	2%	8,727	11,314	20%	13,522
EBITDA margin %	19.0%	19 bps	19.2%	17.1%	183 bps	19.0%
Operating profit	7,986	3%	8,239	10,503	22%	12,836
Operating margin %	17.8%	35 bps	18.1%	15.9%	210 bps	18.0%
Net income	-314	n.m.	414	3,063	47.6%	4,520
Net Margin %	-1%	n.m.	1%	5%	37%	6%

Source: Company data, Ata Invest Estimates

Exhibit -- ULKER- Ata Estimates vs Bloomberg-consensus

	Bloom berg Est		Ata Invest	Bloom berg Est		Ata Invest
TL mn	2023E	Difference	2023E	2024E	Difference	2024E
Net Sales	44,497	2%	45,499	66,174	8%	71,313
EBITDA	8,622	1%	8,727	12,530	8%	13,522
Net income	-291	n.m.	414	3,063	48%	4,520
EBITDA Margin	19.4%	-20 bps	19.2%	18.9%	3 bps	19.0%
Net Margin	-0.7%	156 bps	0.9%	4.6%	171 bps	6.3%

Source: Ata Invest Estimates, Bloomberg Estimates

Exhibit -- ULKER- Ata Estimates vs Guidance

	Guidance					
TL mn	2023E	Difference	2023E			
Net Sales	40,750	12%	45,499			
EBITDA	7,824	12%	8,727			
EBITDA Margin	19.2%	-2 bps	19.2%			

Source: Ata Invest Estimates, Ulker Guidance



No new acquisition is planned for the following 3 years. Massive restructuring has been realised during the last 12 years.

Since 2011, Ulker has been going through a massive restructuring in both domestic and international operations. We believe that the company has successfully completed the restructuring of its domestic operations and international operations. Ulker aims to create high-level collaboration between companies and build a structure that will accelerate Ulker's profitable, sustainable growth. Ulker is now able to act as a local producer and regional production hub. Although Onem Gida acquisition was equity dilutive, vertical integration was achieved and had +330bps contribution to Ulker's gross margin.

Ulker completed the acquisition of Hi-Food (Egypt) and FMC (S. Arabia) in 2016. Ulker also acquired Hamle (Kazakhstan) in 1Q17 from its parent company, Yıldız Holding. Ulker completed the acquisition of IBC (International Biscuits) in 2Q18 and Onem Gıda in 2Q21. We roughly estimate that including c.US\$584mn, these acquisitions translated into c.US\$584mn cash outflow for Ulker during 2016-2021.

According to the management, no major acquisition appears in sight for the following 3 years. We believe de-leveraging and organic growth will be the primary focus areas for Ulker during the following 3 years.

Positive indications from Yıldız Holding, Ulker's parent company, is also encouraging for Ulker investors.

Yıldız Holding experienced financial difficulties back in 2017 with around US\$6.5bn financial debt. According to the chairperson, they had made a timing mistake with large acquisitions which deteriorated the Group's cash balance. The Group negotiated with the banks and renewed the maturity of the loans outstanding. During the last 5 years, Yıldız Holding managed to reduce its syndicated loans to US\$1.6bn. The Group continued to grow during the same period and the number of employees increased to 75K from 60K. The Group's consolidated revenues increased to TL100bn in 2021 from TL42.3bn in 2017. Since 2018, Yıldız Holding paid US\$1.8bn syndicated loans through asset sales, including Sok Market and Penta IPOs.

During 2017-2021, Med Gıda, Aktül Kağıt, Kellogg, Ak Alev, Sebat, Godiva's operations in four countries (Japan, South Korea and Australia retail and distribution network, New Zealand market development right) were sold. Yıldız Holding also sold some non-core subsidiaries such as Della, Nesos, Unmaş, Kümaş, Beverage Group, Propak, Cafe Crown and Pendik Nişasta.

According to an interview with Murat Ulker, back in 2020, Yıldız Holding's net debt/EBITDA was still standing at 6.5-7x, above the alarming levels of 4-5x. Currently, Yıldız Holding's net debt/EBITDA ratio declined to 2.5x, thanks to its defensive operating environment and asset sales during the last 5 years.

According to AA news interview dated 9 Jan 2023, Yıldız Holding CEO Mehmet Tütüncü shared his evaluation of 2022 results and their targets for 2023. According to the preliminary figures, Yıldız Holding reached consolidated revenues of TL170bn in 2022, implying 70% growth. Number of employees was standing at around 75K in total and 12.4 overseas. Pladis, which brings together big brands such as Ulker, McVitie's and Godiva, has c.40% share in Yıldız Holding's consolidated revenues in 9M22. Şok Market, Bizim Toptan and Seç Market, combined, had a 39% share in Yıldız Holding during the same period. According to Yıldız Holding CEO Tütüncü,



Yıldız Holding was targeting a consolidated revenue of TL250bn in 2023 while adding 10K new employees to its labour force. The Group also aimed TL4.4bn Capex, implying %76 increase in 2023.

We believe that investors were applying an additional discount to Ulker's valuation due to concerns about the un-listed parent company, Yıldız Holding. We believe Yıldız Holding has passed through a significant restructuring during the last 5 years and we do not have any major concern about the parent company risk. We also believe that following the de-leveraging, we foresee momentum in Yıldız Holding' operastions, which poses an upside risk to Ulker's outlook and valuation.

Synergies via pladis are likely to be the long-term positive catalysts

In Dec 2016, Yıldız Holding sold 21% of Ulker shares at TL19.5/shr to Pladis, which is fully owned by Yıldız Holding. pladis bought Yıldız Holding's remaining 28.9% stake in Ulker in 2018 and eventually had full direct control in Ulker with 51% stake until Sept 2023. After Ulker's merger with Ulker Çikolata and Biskot, pladis' stake in Ulker was 47.2%. Including Ulker family and Yıldız Holding shares, Yıldız Holding group stake in Ulker currently is 60.4% and the remaining 39.6% is free float.

pladis is a new global company which brings together Yıldız Holding's core snacking businesses Godiva Chocolaties, United Biscuits, Ulker and DeMet's Candy Company with their iconic brands under one umbrella. he Group is determined to be global leader in biscuits and confectionery and to be a powerful player in the sweet and savoury segments, chocolate and chocolate products, wafers, cakes, gums and candies.

Main growth engines for pladis are (1) McVitie's - renowned biscuits brand across the UK and Europe (2) Godiva - the international premium chocolate brand and (2) Ulker- the leading biscuits and confectionery brand in Turkey and MENA region.

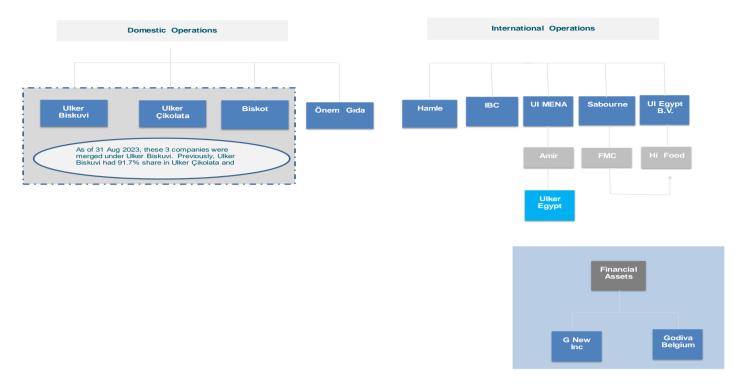
With this new structure, Ulker represent the confectionery business of pladis in Turkey and MENACA (Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia) regions. Within this structure, potential synergies are (1) efficiencies in procurement (2) creating business potential and focus on value added products (3) MENACA operations (4) new export opportunities through pladis network widening product umbrella (5) competitive edge through global& regional& local brands and (6) R&D capabilities.



C



Ulker - Group Structure



Source:Company data, ** pladis Foods LTD is fully owned by Yıldız Holding



Risks

Steep increases in raw material prices

Going forward, we foresee moderate raw material price increases parallel to product prices. Considering that raw materials constitute c.65% of Ulker's COGS, any steep jump in raw material prices would be a risk to our gross margin estimates. Within raw material costs, Cacao and Palm oil costs are the key items. Hard currency denominated expenses are 57% of their COGS and 40% of net sales. The other raw material cost items are wheat and sugar. Considering that major raw materials (Cacao and Palm Oil) are imported, impact of increases in these cost items coupled with currency affect could be reflected into Ulker's COGS.

Weakening of TL against US\$

Raw materials constitute c.65% of Ulker's COGS and palm oil costs are US\$-based. In future, we foresee moderate raw material price increases parallel to product price increases. Any steep rise in US\$ would also be a risk to our gross margin estimate. As of 2Q23-end, the company had TL8.8bn cash and TL23.3bn gross financial debt. Although the company has a strong TL cash position, its strategy to carry an additional short FX position is a risk in case of major depreciation in TL against US\$ in the short term. As of 2Q23-end, Ulker had a TL7.0bn (US\$271mn) short FX position whereas it had a net debt of TL18mn.

Extensive relations with the group companies

The Ulker brand is an umbrella brand and has been used not only for confectionery items but also the food and beverage group products including dairy products, edible oil, culinary items, beverages etc. The brand is owned by Yıldız Holding. We believe the strong relationship between Ulker and Yıldız Holding is a strategically positive. But, extensive supplier-customer transactions with Yıldız Holding group companies might be considered as a risk. Despite efforts to simplify company structure, intragroup relations make the company less visible. Ulker's sales to the organised channel are realised through Pasifik which is owned by Yıldız Holding. Moreover, Ulker again realises distribution of its products to the traditional channel through Horizon which is also owned by Yıldız Holding. However, these transactions are all undertaken on an arm's length basis.



Ulker - Revenue Model

Macro Assumptions	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E
US\$TL Avg	16.6	23.7	34.5	44.8	52.9	58.7	63.4	68.4	73.9
US\$/TL y/y	86.9	42.9	45.8	29.9	18.0	10.8	8.0	8.0	8.0
Inflation (CPI chng)	72.3	54.5	59.1	33.5	20.5	13.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E
Revenues (TL mn)									
Domestic	16,808	28,750	46,253	64,401	81,126	95,988	110,636	127,519	146,978
International	10,198	14,960	22,252	30,375	38,037	44,713	51,231	58,699	67,255
Total Confectionery	27,006	43,710	68,505	94,776	119,163	140,701	161,867	186,218	214,234
Other	1,191	1,789	2,808	3,874	4,844	5,688	6,508	7,447	8,523
Total Revenue	28,197	45,499	71,313	98,650	124,006	146,389	168,374	193,665	222,757
International/Total Revenue	36%	33%	31%	31%	31%	31%	30%	30%	30%
Revenue growth									
Domestic	137%	71%	61%	39%	26%	18%	15%	15%	15%
International	102%	47%	49%	37%	25%	18%	15%	15%	15%
Total Confectionery	123%	62%	57%	38%	26%	18%	15%	15%	15%
Other	188%	50%	57%	38%	25%	17%	14%	14%	14%
Total Revenue	125%	61%	57%	38%	26%	18%	15%	15%	15%
Sales Volume (tons)									
Domestic	409,709	410,532	414,637	422,930	431,388	440,016	448,816	457,793	466,949
International	184,654	172,433	174,157	179,382	184,764	190,307	196,016	201,896	207,953
Total Confectionery	594,363	582,965	588,795	602,312	616,152	630,323	644,832	659,689	674,902
Other	87,382	82,174	82,996	84,744	86,530	88,354	90,218	92,122	94,067
Total Consolidated	681,745	665,139	671,791	687,056	702,682	718,677	735,050	751,811	768,968
Volume growth									
Domestic	4.4%	0.2%	1.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
International	-3.1%	-6.6%	1.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Total Confectionery	1.9%	-1.9%	1.0%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Other	13.1%	-6.0%	1.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
Total Volume	3.2%	-2.4%	1.0%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Average prices - TL/ton									
Domestic	41.0	70.0	111.6	152.3	188.1	218.1	246.5	278.6	314.8
International	55.2	86.8	127.8	169.3	205.9	235.0	261.4	290.7	323.4
Total	45.4	75.0	116.3	157.4	193.4	223.2	251.0	282.3	317.4
Other	13.6	21.8	33.8	45.7	56.0	64.4	72.1	80.8	90.6
Total Consolidated	41.4	68.4	106.2	143.6	176.5	203.7	229.1	257.6	289.7
Average Price Increase									
Domestic	127.3%	70.7%	59.3%	36.5%	23.5%	16.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%
International	108.8%	57.1%	47.3%	32.5%	21.6%	14.1%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%
Total Confectionery	118.5%	65.0%	55.2%	35.2%	22.9%	15.4%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Other	154.3%	59.7%	55.4%	35.1%	22.4%	15.0%	12.1%	12.1%	12.1%
Total Revenue	117.8%	65.4%	55.2%	35.3%	22.9%	15.4%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Source: Company data Ata Invest Fi		-3	23.270	23.070	,	. 5. 1,0	/ 0	/ 0	. 2.0 70

Source: Company data, Ata Invest Estimates



Valuation

We use both the DCF valuation methodology and a multiple valuation for Ulker. Based on our blended valuation (50:50), our 12-month TP of TL152 implies 90% upside potential.

As we believe that Ulker does not have a full-comparable peer with similar structure, size and product range, we instead considered global food companies' average multiples as a base for comparison, assuming that the food industry dynamics are the common ground for multiple comparisons.

Currently, Ulker trades at 6.3x 2023E and 4.1x 2024E EV/EBITDA, implying 37% and 57% discount compared to its global peers, respectively. On the other hand, Ulker trades at 6.5 x 2024E P/E multiple, representing a 58% discount compared to its global peers.

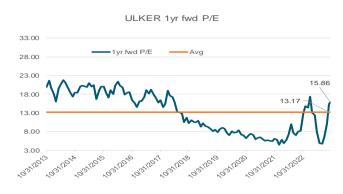
Exhibit - Ulker- Global Food Peers

					EV/EBI	TDA				F	P/E					
Company	Bloomberg Ticker	Currency	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2023E	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2023E	Мсар	EV
us																
HERSHEY CO/THE	HSY US EQUITY	USD	21.9	20.8	18.9	16.1	14.1	13.4	33.2	30.7	26.9	23.1	20.0	18.6	39,025.0	43,857.0
FLOWERS FOODS INC	FLO US EQUITY	USD	12.8	10.6	10.9	10.6	10.5	9.9	21.3	16.2	16.4	16.1	16.8	15.7	4,340.5	5,684.9
KRAFT FOODS INC-CLASS A	KFT US EQUITY	USD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KELLOGG CO	K US EQUITY	USD	10.6	10.4	10.4	10.1	9.5	9.7	12.8	12.4	12.1	12.1	12.2	12.6	17,069.0	24,347.0
HJ HEINZ CO	HNZ US EQUITY	USD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CAMPBELL SOUP CO	CPB US EQUITY	USD	8.8	9.1	9.5	10.0	9.4	9.1	15.6	13.5	13.7	14.0	13.2	13.0	11,831.0	16,611.0
European																
NESTLE SA-REG	NESN VX EQUITY	CHF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DANONE	BN FP EQUITY	EUR	10.1	11.2	10.6	10.6	10.4	10.1	14.2	16.7	16.5	16.2	15.8	15.0	38,711.0	51,336.0
ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS PLC	ABF LN EQUITY	GBp	8.9	10.4	9.7	7.7	7.4	6.6	14.3	24.1	26.4	15.3	14.0	12.0	18,118.0	21,361.0
BARRY CALLEBAUT AG-REG	BARN SW EQUITY	CHF	11.8	13.7	11.7	11.1	10.6	9.9	19.7	25.0	20.4	18.9	17.6	16.9	8,548.2	10,237.0
GRUPPA CHERKIZOVO	CHE LI EQUITY	USD														
Asia																
MAYORA INDAH PT	MYOR IJ EQUITY	IDR	15.8	15.9	18.8	18.7	12.8	11.4	32.1	26.4	36.6	37.3	23.3	20.3	3,698.7	3,708.8
EZAKI GLICO CO LTD	2206 JT EQUITY	JPY	7.1	-	6.5	7.7	7.6	7.4	20.0	19.7	20.5	24.7	24.9	24.4	1,885.9	1,701.2
WANT WANT CHINA HOLDINGS LTD	151 HK EQUITY	HKD	9.7	8.9	8.1	7.7	8.8	8.2	16.4	15.0	13.4	12.7	14.2	13.5	7,338.7	7,011.5
BRITANNIA INDUSTRIES LTD	BRIT IN EQUITY	INR	63.1	60.4	43.5	50.3	40.3	36.0	93.7	79.7	57.6	71.0	57.0	51.5	13,263.0	13,361.0
ORION CORP	001800 KS EQUITY	KRW	-	-	-	-	3.1	2.8	-	-	-	-	8.9	7.9	718.7	822.6
PETRA FOODS LTD	PETRA SP EQUITY	SGD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORP	URC PM EQUITY	PHP	11.9	11.4	11.5	12.1	10.5	9.3	23.3	22.7	20.3	21.2	18.1	15.5	4,360.9	4,562.7
Latin																
GRUPO BIMBO SAB- SERIES A	BIMBOA MM EQUITY	MXN	14.4	10.8	9.6	8.6	8.2	7.4	57.4	39.6	23.6	16.3	18.1	16.4	19,081.0	26,589.0
INDOFOOD SUKSES MAKMUR TBK P	INDF IJ EQUITY	IDR	10.1	8.8	6.6	5.9	5.6	5.2	12.5	10.7	8.3	8.0	6.1	5.5	3,757.0	8,436.2
Turkish																
PINAR SUT MAMULLERI SANAYII	PNSUT TI EQUITY	TRY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127.3	-
ULKER BISKUVI SANAYI AS	ULKER TLEQUITY	TRY	41.3	33.2	25.0	10.7	6.1	4.3	33.7	28.6	-		_	12.7	1.084.2	_

Global food average*	11.2	10.8	10.5	10.4	10.0	9.5	19.8	21.2	20.3	16.3	17.2	15.6	
%10 discount				į.	9.0	8.5				ĺ	14.6	13.2	
ULKER at current				į	6.3	4.1				į	71.3	6.5	
ULKER** at target					9.1	5.9				ŀ	130.7	12.0	
ULKER Premium/(discount) to global food peers				į	-37%	-57%					314%	-58%	

Source: Bloomberg Estimates, *excluding Ulker, **Ata Invest Estimates

Exhibit - ULKER - 1 yr fwd Multiples (10-yr avg)





Source: Bloomberg

Exhibit- Ulker - Summary Balance Sheet

	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Revenues	12,537	28,197	45,499	71,313	98,650	124,006	146,389
Cost of Sales	-8,925	-19,788	-31,576	-49,919	-69,351	-87,176	-103,204
Gross Profit	3,612	8,409	13,923	21,394	29,299	36,830	43,185
Research Expenses	-354	-715	-1,133	-1,783	-2,466	-3,100	-3,660
Marketing, Sales and Distribution Expenses	-1,121	-2,486	-4,364	-6,561	-9,076	-11,409	-13,468
General Administrative Expenses	-40	-89	-186	-214	-296	-372	-439
Other Operating Income	896	1,119	1,411	409	409	409	409
Other Operating Expenses	-564	-378	-279	О	0	0	0
Operating Profit from Main Operations	2,430	5,859	9,371	13,245	17,870	22,358	26,027
Income from Investment Activities	6,096	3,881	4,520	1,422	1,584	1,746	1,915
Expenses from Investment Activities	-131	-1,607	-176	0	0	0	0
Operating Profit before fin. income & exp	8,395	8,133	13,716	14,667	19,454	24,104	27,942
Financial Income	445	193	69	1	1	1	1
Financial Expense	-8,910	-8,244	-11,952	-7,130	-8,265	-8,481	-8,434
Profit before Tax	-71	82	1,833	7,538	11,190	15,624	19,509
Tax Expense	-92	118	-339	-1,884	-2,798	-3,906	-4,877
Tax on Income	-451	-680	0	О	0	0	0
Deferred tax income	359	798	0	О	0	0	0
Net Income before minority interest	-162	200	1,494	5,653	8,393	11,718	14,631
Non-controlling Interest	302	553	1,079	1,133	1,683	2,349	2,933
Net Income	-464	-353	414	4,520	6,710	9,369	11,698
Depreciation and Amortisation	230	349	488	686	851	1.060	1,278
Total Opex	-1,514	-3,290	-5,684	-8,558	-11,838	-14,881	-17,567
EBIT (our definition)	2,098	-3,290 5,118	-5,664 8,239	12,836	17,461	21,949	25,618
EBITOA		•	-	•			
EBITDA	2,328	5,467	8,727	13,522	18,312	23,009	26,896
Gross margin	28.8%	29.8%	30.6%	30.0%	29.7%	29.7%	29.5%
Opex/Net Sales	-12.1%	-11.7%	-12.5%	-12.0%	-12.0%	-12.0%	-12.0%
EBIT margin	16.7%	18.2%	18.1%	18.0%	17.7%	17.7%	17.5%
EBITDA margin	18.6%	19.4%	19.2%	19.0%	18.6%	18.6%	18.4%
PBT margin	-0.6%	0.3%	4.0%	10.6%	11.3%	12.6%	13.3%
Effective Tax rate	130.3%	144.5%	-18.5%	-25.0%	-25.0%	-25.0%	-25.0%

Source: Company data, Ata Invest Estimates



Exhibit- U	Iker - Summary	Ba	lance	Sheet
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	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Cash & Cash Equivalent	3,005	9,255	8,054	20,675	28,329	36,457	45,475
Financial Investments	6,415	210	4	6	8	9	9
Trade Receivables	4,688	7,388	13,212	16,442	22,744	28,590	33,751
Other Receivables	614	1,558	2,127	2,127	2,127	2,127	2,127
Inventories	3,218	4,996	10,412	12,757	17,723	22,278	26,374
Prepaid Expenses	369	423	759	804	853	904	958
Other current assets	456	1,344	1,111	1,178	1,248	1,323	1,403
Total current assets	18,765	25,174	35,680	53,989	73,032	91,688	110,097
Financial Investments	1,878	2,687	3,701	3,701	3,701	3,701	3,701
Investment Properties	0	0	3	О	0	0	0
Property, Plant and Equipment	3,641	6,817	8,257	10,563	13,799	17,898	22,171
Intangible Assets	1,548	2,018	2,880	2,880	2,880	2,880	2,880
Prepaid Expenses	84	129	128	136	144	153	162
Deferred Tax Assets	328	1,034	1,780	1,887	2,000	2,120	2,248
Other non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total non-current assets	7,479	12,685	16,750	19,168	22,525	26,752	31,162
TOTAL ADDITIO	00.044	07.050	50.400	70.450	05.557	440.440	444.050
TOTAL ASSETS	26,244	37,859	52,429	73,156	95,557	118,440	141,259
Short-Term Financial Liabilities	760	925	1,599	1,599	1,599	1,599	1,599
Short-Term Portion of Long-Term Financial Liabi	2,103	10,476	4,180	6,582	8,464	9,873	10,790
Short-term finance lease liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred Income	84	82	68	14	14	14	14
Trade payables	2,270	4,161	7,357	9,290	12,907	16,225	19,207
Payables related to employee benefits	77	132	240	255	270	286	304
Current tax liability	302	262	536	568	602	639	677
Short-term provisions	423	610	1,229	1,302	1,381	1,463	1,551
Other current liabilities	116	238	274	290	307	326	345
Total current liabilities	6,134	16,887	15,482	19,901	25,544	30,424	34,488
Long-Term Financial Liabilities	15,314	12,349	25,476	36,065	44,360	50,571	54,617
Long-term finance lease liabilities	0	0	О	О	0	0	0
Other payables	0	0	О	0	0	0	0
Long-term provisions	347	764	1,015	1,076	1,140	1,209	1,281
Deferred tax liabilities	135	176	85	91	96	102	108
Total non-current liabilities	15,796	13,289	26,577	37,232	45,597	51,881	56,005
B						0.40	
Paid-in capital	342	342	342	342	342	342	342
Adjustments to Share Capital	108	108	108	108	108	108	108
Retained Earnings	4,385	3,920	3,567	3,567	8,501	15,211	24,581
Net profit for the period	-464	-353	414	4,934	6,710	9,369	11,698
Other equity items	-1,384	1,669	2,688	2,688	2,688	2,688	2,688
Shareholders Equity	2,987	5,686	7,119	11,639	18,349	27,718	39,416
Non-controlling interest	1,327	1,997	3,251	4,384	6,067	8,416	11,350
TOTAL LIAB. & SHR EQUITY	26,244	37,859	52,429	73,156	95,557	118,440	141,259
Source: Company data Ata Invest Estimates	20,244	31,033	32,423	73,130	33,331	110,440	171,233

Source: Company data, Ata Invest Estimates



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Stock Ratings:

For the purposes of our research report, our rating system is defined as follows;

OUTPERFORM - The stock is expected to return above the benchmark index (ISE-100) over 12 months in the market, or else provides the best risk/reward ratio.

MARKETPERFORM - The stock is expected to return in line with the benchmark index (ISE-100) over 12 months in the market, or else does not offer a compelling risk/reward profile.

UNDERPERFORM - The stock is expected to return below the benchmark index (ISE-100) over 12 months in the market, or else with unacceptable risk relative to the potential reward.

NEUTRAL - There are crucial uncertainties surrounding stock performance preventing us from attaching a relative rating compared to the benchmark.



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