

SuMi TRUST Monthly Commentary

August 2019



1. Earnings Forecast for FY 2019 and FY2020
2. Impact of US-China trade frictions on Japanese companies

1. SuMi TRUST has updated its operating profit forecast for the Nikkei 225 (see Figure 1) for the current fiscal year ending March 2020 (FY2019) and the next fiscal year ending March 2021 (FY2020).

• FY 2019: We forecast lower earnings from falling demand in the material sectors (Iron & Steel, Non-ferrous Metals) and Auto & Transport Equipment, a slowdown in the external demand-related and technology sectors including Electric Appliances, and slightly lower earnings in the Energy Resources. Conversely, we see the domestic demand-related sectors such as Retail and Services holding up despite a slight slowdown. However, the domestic demand-related sectors overall will be dragged down by companies impacted by their overseas investments.

• FY 2020: With a gradual recovery in demand, we see higher earnings in the external demand-related sectors including the material sectors (Iron & Steel, Non-ferrous Metals), Energy Resources and Auto & Transport Equipment. We also see increased earnings amongst domestic demand-related companies that include Retail, which is cutting its costs, higher consumption of Services due to longer leisure time, and improving earnings in the Pharmaceuticals which is seeing the effects of acquisitions.

Figure 1. Operating Profit Forecast for FY2019 and FY2020

			No. of Co's	SuMI TRUST			Consensus
				FY2019	FY2020		FY2020
					Projection as of June 2019	Projection as of March 2019	Projection as of June 2019
Total			185	-3.0%	7.7%	10.2%	8.7%
	Manufacturing		132	-1.9%	9.1%	12.3%	10.1%
	Non-manufacturing		53	-5.0%	4.8%	6.3%	6.3%
	Sector	Chemicals & Textile	22	4.4%	5.2%	6.0%	4.4%
		Iron & Steel	4	-31.0%	19.0%	29.9%	12.2%
		Non-ferrous Metals	11	-4.6%	10.8%	11.2%	5.3%
		Energy Resources	3	-2.7%	17.5%	19.6%	13.4%
		Auto & Transport Equipment	14	2.0%	7.5%	5.1%	6.1%
		Machinery	14	-1.1%	0.4%	6.4%	8.3%
		Electrical Appliances	31	-2.8%	9.6%	11.1%	7.4%
		Glass & Ceramic Products	8	1.3%	7.2%	8.2%	13.3%
		Food	13	0.9%	6.2%	6.2%	8.8%
		Pharmaceuticals	7	-27.4%	26.6%	105.1%	83.0%
		Pulp & Paper	2	14.2%	5.3%	10.5%	12.1%
		Other manufacturing	3	5.0%	4.2%	9.0%	3.1%
		Retail	8	5.7%	9.9%	10.3%	6.2%
		Transportation & Logistics	15	2.3%	6.9%	8.6%	3.2%
		Construction & Real Estate	15	13.5%	1.8%	3.6%	3.2%
		Information & Communication	7	-18.1%	1.7%	6.0%	9.4%
Services	8	4.5%	17.8%	2.8%	2.9%		
Other Nikkei 225 co's (not included in the above; figures based on net income)							
	Sub-total:	32	16.4%	0.9%	-0.4%	1.0%	
	Electric Power & Gas	5	23.1%	1.2%	-12.4%	-9.6%	
	Wholesale Trade	7	6.3%	0.5%	0.0%	4.5%	
	Financials	20	22.3%	1.0%	1.4%	0.7%	
FX assumptions	JPY/ USD		110	110	110		
	JPY/ EUR		120	125	120		
Total							
	Domestic/external demand sectors		185	-3.0%	7.7%	10.2%	8.7%
	External sectors		99	-0.9%	8.1%	8.8%	7.1%
	Domestic sectors		86	-5.5%	7.2%	11.8%	10.6%

Notes:

1. FY 2019 is from April 2019 to March 2020 and FY 2020 is from April 2020 to March 2021.
2. Consensus numbers are taken from the Japan Company Handbook published by Toyo Keizai Inc.
3. Where the consolidated parent co. and subsidiary are both included in the Nikkei 225, we excluded the subsidiary to avoid double accounting.
4. Each percentage is shown as compared with the corresponding period of a year earlier

Comments on the earnings forecast of major sectors for FY2019 and FY2020 are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Comments on Earnings Forecast for FY2019/FY2020 of the Major Sectors

Sector	Year	Comments
Chemicals & Textile	FY2019	Profits are expected to increase due to stable growth of toiletries businesses, an increase in the volume of specialty chemicals, and the effects of structural reforms at specified companies.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase due to stable growth in toiletries, recovery in demand related to electronics, and an increase in the volume of specialty chemicals.
Iron & Steel	FY2019	Profits are expected to decline due to declining margins due to rising prices of material cost, iron ore.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase due to cost reduction, stability of material cost, and recovery of crude steel production.
Non-ferrous Metals	FY2019	Profits are expected to decline due to the deterioration of the electronics-related business and the sluggish non-ferrous metal prices.
	FY2020	Profit is expected to increase due to the recovery of the electronics-related business.
Energy Resources	FY2019	Profits are expected to decline due to declining petrochemical margins and falling prices of resources such as copper and coal.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase due to business expansion arising from resource development project and synergies effect on integration.
Auto and Transportation Equipment	FY2019	Despite a slight decline in auto sales, the impact of exchanges rates and an increase in raw material prices and expenses, profits are expected to increase owing to a decline in quality costs and temporary factors.
	FY2020	Although vehicle sales are flat, profits are expected to increase as the impact of raw material prices is expected to peak out.
Machinery	FY2019	Profits are expected to decline in businesses associated with strong economic cycles such as machine tools and bearings.
	FY2020	Demand in capital investment such as machine tool orders will bottom out in FY19 based on the past average cycle, and profit will increase in FY2020.
Electrical Appliances	FY2019	Profits are expected to decline due to temporary factors such as structural reform.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase due to expansion of vehicle related equipment.
Glass & Ceramic Products	FY2019	Profits are expected to increase due to increase in cement prices and stabilization of raw fuel prices.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase due to operational improvement among glass companies and the stabilization of raw material prices.
Food	FY2019	The sluggish top-line growth, rising costs of raw material prices and labor cost, as well as temporary factors in some names, will weigh on earnings outlook.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase partly due to a rebound of temporary factors. However, the profit growth would be a single digit only as a severe cost increase will be a drag in the sector as a whole.
Pharmaceuticals	FY2019	New drugs are driving a growth, but profits are expected to decrease due to a revision of medical fee following the consumption tax hike and large acquisition costs.
	FY2020	Although a drug price revision is expected in April, profits are expected to increase due to a drop in large-scale acquisition costs and a growth driven by new drugs.



Sector	Year	Comments
Retail	FY2019	As private spending is expected to be weaker after the consumption tax hike, retailers will change their price policies and strengthen sales promotion especially in the second half.
	FY2020	Profits continue to increase while absorbing an increase in personnel and logistic costs due to changes in cost structure resulting from structural reforms.
Construction & Real Estate	FY2019	Profits are expected to increase due to improvement in the profit margin among construction companies as well as an increase in rent and sales gains of real estate.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase due to an increase in rent and sales gains of real estate.
Information & Communication	FY2019	Profits are expected to decrease due to intensifying competition amid new entry and the introduction of a new fee system by some mobile carriers.
	FY2020	Although the impact from new fee plans and new entry will continue, profits are expected to recover slightly due to the cost efficiency of each company and gains from non-communications monetization.
Wholesale Trade	FY2019	Profits are expected to increase due to a rebound from temporary losses in the previous fiscal year, the same level of resource prices and growth in non-resource businesses.
	FY2020	The non-resource businesses continue to grow, but the growth will remain flat due to a decline in resource prices.
Financials	FY2019	Profits are expected to increase due to structural reforms and the removal of losses by special factors in the previous year.
	FY2020	Profits are expected to increase due to progress of structural reform.

• Changes since the end of March: With the global economy showing signs of a slowdown, we have revised downwards our earnings forecast for external demand-related companies. In addition, our forecast reflects the impact of large scale overseas acquisitions by domestic demand-related companies.

2. SuMi TRUST has also updated the view on impact of US-China trade frictions on Japanese companies

Intensifying trade frictions have resulted in an increased the number of bankruptcies, higher unemployment and sluggish consumption in China. It has also impacted some Japanese companies there as well. Additional risks include falling investments into China, changes in the supply chain, and additional tariffs by the US. On the other hand, this increases business opportunities and should improve Sino-Japanese relations. Furthermore, we can expect monetary relaxation measures and stimulus policies to underpin the economy, and thus do not see much more downside for Japanese companies.

For Japanese companies, the slowdown in external demand and sluggishness in personal consumption from higher consumption taxes will become a burden. But economic stimulus measures to counter higher taxes, and rising wages stemming from the tight labour market, should keep the Japanese economy on a path of gradual expansion. Whilst we expect lower earnings for FY 2019, FY 2020 should see higher earnings.

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Any enquiries regarding the products should be made to:

Hirofumi Hayashi

Head of Investment Management Department

Sumitomo Mitsui Trust International Limited

155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XU, United Kingdom

Direct: +44 (0)20 7562 8405

Email: imd@smtil.com

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