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Infrastructure Operation Sector: FY2024 Update

Stronger traffic demand, higher fee schemes and increasing public investment drive strong financial performance

In 2024, infrastructure operators' profitability and cash flow improved significantly, while debt levels remained stable. We expect 2025 to remain a strong year for infrastructure companies. The government plans to increase public investment by 32% in 2025, which will further accelerate infrastructure project completion and thereby create new cash flows for the sector. Buoyed by increasing economic activities to achieve a higher GDP growth target in 2025, traffic demand will accelerate, supporting sales growth and enhancing the financial performance of infrastructure companies in 2025.

Listed infrastructure companies reported FY2024 revenue growth of 19% year-over-year (YoY) and a 26% YoY increase in net income, driven by higher traffic demand and increased fee schemes. Strong economic activities, substantial recovery of foreign tourism, and improved connectivity between provinces have pushed passenger and cargo transportation to increase 10% YoY in 2024, significantly higher than the average 2% YoY during 2018 - 2023.

In Jan 2024, the government approved a 10% increase in toll fees for 44 toll road projects. Subsequently, in Feb 2024, the government increased the floor rates for seaport services by about 25% to curb increasing price competition among international and local operators. The fee hikes enhanced the sector's gross margin from 32.7% in 2023 to 34.7% in 2024. Looking ahead, we expect the operating results of infrastructure companies will continue to improve, driven by stronger business conditions and continuously increasing traffic demand.

Seaport and toll road operators saw strong earnings growth from higher fees and traffic demand, while airport operators reported lower growth due to capacity limits. In 2024, seaport pass-through volume (including cargo and passenger) grew the most (16% YoY), followed by toll roads (10% YoY). In addition, significant increases in toll road and seaport service fees led to double-digit revenue and profit growth in these segments. Seaport operators saw revenue increase by 18% YoY, while net income surged by 37% YoY. Meanwhile, toll road operators recorded revenue and net income growth of 15% YoY and 29% YoY, respectively.

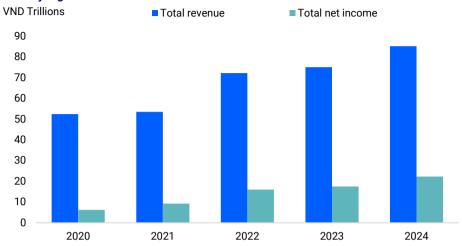
On the other hand, airport pass-through volume grew by only 3% YoY. Extensive aircraft maintenance schedules in 2024 and capacity constraints at major airports like Tan Son Nhat and Noi Bai led to a 7% YoY drop in the number of flights operated in 2024. As a result, revenue growth of airport operators like ACV, SCS, and AST slowed to 9% YoY; income growth similarly slowed to 13% YoY. In 2025, we expect seaport and toll road operators' earnings to remain strong. We also anticipate stronger growth in airport operators' earnings as several ongoing projects, including Tan Son Nhat Terminal 3 and Noi Bai Terminal 2 expansion, will commence operation from Q2/2025.

The sector's cash flow improved significantly under stronger operating cash flow and significant equity fundraising, while the debt level remained stable in 2024. Over the last year, infrastructure operators saw a modest 3% YoY increase in total debt, supported by stronger operating cash flow and significant equity funding through share issuances. The sector's operating cash flow grew 37% YoY, driven by strong earnings and accelerated public investment disbursement. Several major infrastructure projects, such as the North-South Expressway components (Cam Lam Vinh Hao, Dien Chau Bai Vot), interstate highway (Tan Phu Bao Loc), and seaport expansion (Chu Lai, Lach Huyen) were completed ahead of schedule, strengthening cash flows for infrastructure companies.

Meanwhile, listed infrastructure companies, including GMD, CII, HHV, and VSC, raised 10% more equity through share issuances in 2024 to reduce debt and fund CAPEX. For 2025, we expect cash flow will continue to improve from increasing traffic and commercial commencement of new projects. We also expect the sector's debt level to remain stable in 2025 as some infrastructure companies have announced plans for equity fundraising to meet CAPEX demands or to refinance debts, such as HHV (VND 1.5 trillion) or VSC (VND 0.2 trillion).

Stronger traffic demand, higher fee schemes and increasing public investment drive strong financial performance

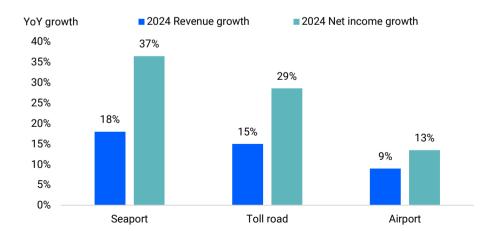
Exhibit 1: Infrastructure companies reported FY2024 revenue and net income increases, driven by higher traffic demand and increased fee schemes



Source: Company data, VIS Rating

Note: Top 30 listed infrastructure companies in terms of revenue

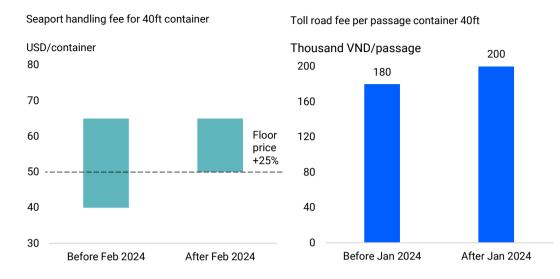
Exhibit 3: Seaport and toll road operators saw strong earnings growth from higher fees and traffic demand, while airport operators reported lower growth due to capacity limits



Source: VIS Rating

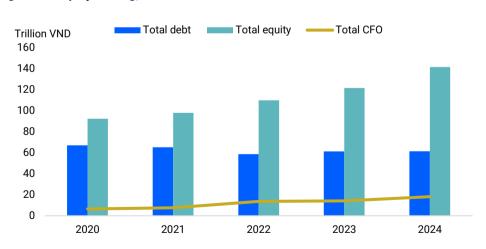
Note: Top 30 listed infrastructure companies in terms of revenue

Exhibit 2: Fee hikes have enhanced the sector's gross margin from 32.7% in 2023 to 34.7% in 2024



Source: Ministry of Transportation

Exhibit 4: The sector's cash flow improved significantly under stronger operating cash flow and significant equity funding, while the debt level remained stable



Source: Company data, VIS Rating

Note: Top 30 listed infrastructure companies in terms of revenue

APPENDIX

The companies included in our analysis are as follows:

	Short name	Full name
1	ACV	Airports Corporation of Vietnam
2	ASG	ASG Corporation
3	AST	Taseco Air Services JSC
4	CCR	Cam Ranh Port Joint Stock Company
5	CCT	Can Tho Port Joint Stock Company
6	CDN	Danang Port Joint Stock Company
7	CII	Ho Chi Minh City Infrastructure Investment JSC
8	CLL	Cat Lai Port Joint Stock Company
9	CMP	Chan May Port JSC
10	CQN	Quang Ninh Port Joint Stock Company
11	DVP	Dinh Vu Port Investment & Development Joint Stock Company
12	DXP	Doan Xa Port Joint Stock Company
13	GMD	Gemadept Corporation
14	HHV	Deo Ca Traffic Infrastructure Investment JSC
15	HTI	IDICO Infrastructure Development Investment Joint Stock Company
16	ILB	ICD Tan Cang Long Binh Joint Stock Company
17	LGC	CII Bridges & Roads Investment JSC
18	MAS	Danang Airports Services Joint Stock
19	MVN	Vietnam Maritime Corporation
20	NCS	Noi Bai Catering Services JSC
21	NCT	Noi Bai Cargo Terminal Services Joint Stock Company
22	PDN	Cong Dong Nai Port Joint Stock Company
23	PHP	Hai Phong Port Joint Stock Company
24	PSN	PTSC Thanh Hoa Port Joint Stock Company
25	QNP	Quy Nhon Port Joint Stock Company
26	SCS	Saigon Cargo Service Corporation
27	SGP	Saigon Port Joint Stock Company
28	VGP	Vegetable Forwarding and Warehousing Enterprise
29	VGR	VIP Green Port Joint Stock Company
30	VSC	Vietnam Container Shipping Joint Stock Corporation

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