

The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

### **Rating Report**

## Ismail Industries Limited | PPSTS | PKR 4bln | TBI

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Rating History								
Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch			
08-Dec-2023	A+	A1	Stable	Preliminary	-			

#### **Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers**

Based on mass marketing, the confectionery, biscuits and snack industry in Pakistan is highly price sensitive. Pakistan's large retail base is highly fragmented and dominated by small retailers. However, a major transformation of establishing large retail chains has been observed, particularly in urban centers. On the other hand, growth in disposable personal income of middle and upper middle class has led to improvement in the consumption pattern of branded non-essential items.

The ratings reflect Ismail Industries Limited's ('Ismail Industries' or 'the Company') diversified revenue stream generating from the well established brands Candyland, Bisconni, Snackcity, Ismail Nutrition, Ghiza Flour and Astro Films. The company has a promising profits in FY23 amounting PKR 6bln (FY22: PKR 2bln) due to export sales (FY23: PKR ~40bln, FY22: PKR ~15bln). The major reason of this increase in sales is the international projects undertaken by the Company. The total revenue of the company stood at PKR~99bln in FY23 (FY22: PKR ~65bln).Ismail Industries Limited have investments in its subsidiaries and associates. The company holds 78.53% shares of Hudson Pharma (Pvt) Limited. The company also holds 75% of Ismail Resin (Pvt) Limited that deals with manufacturing of PET resin. The associates of Ismail Industries include Bank of Khyber, Plastiflex Films (Pvt) Limited and Innovita Nutrition (Pvt) Limited. Despite inflation and devaluation, a surge can be seen in the margins as net profit margin stood at ~7% in FY23 (FY22: ~5%). The introduction of new product line Giza Flour adds value in the company's profile and profits. However, major borrowings remain from SBP at subsidized rates. Current leveraging of the company is standing at 71%. The company is also planning to to change it's borrowing mix by issuing a short term PPSTS amounting PKR 4bln which may have impact on leveraging position of the company. While the company's working capital management and coverages remain adequate.

The ratings are dependent on continued revenue growth and maintenance of margins. Prudent management of expansion and investment-related debt in order to meet financial obligations is important. Stringent controls on the Company's debt levels remain imperative for sustaining the ratings. Brand reputation through customer satisfaction remains a crucial parameter for the rating.

Disclosure						
Name of Rated Entity         Ismail Industries Limited   PPSTS   PKR 4bln   TBI						
Type of Relationship	Solicited					
Purpose of the Rating	Debt Instrument Rating					
Applicable Criteria	Methodology   Corporate Rating(Jul-23),Methodology   Rating Modifiers(Apr-23),Methodology   Debt Instrument Rating(Aug-23)					
Related Research	Sector Study   Food Products(Dec-22)					
Rating Analysts	Muhammad Zain Ayaz   zain.ayaz@pacra.com   +92-42-35869504					



#### The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

**Profile** Founded in 1988, Ismail Industries Limited (ISIL' or 'the Company') was incorporated as a public listed company in 1989. Mr. Muhammad Ismail, in collaboration with his brothers, established the Company. The flagship brand of the Company is 'Candyland,' operating within the confectionery segment. Additionally, the Company engages in the biscuits, snacks, nutritional products, and plastic segments through the brands 'Bisconni,' 'Snackcity,' Ismail Nutrition,' and 'Astro Films,' respectively. ISIL's head office is located in Karachi, while production facilities are located in Hub, Port Qasim and Sundar. The Company has total production capacity of 282,932 MT. Utilization levels for FY23 stood at ~55%.

**Ownership** Major shareholding of the Company lies with the Ismail Family (~99%) through Mr. Muhammad Ismail (~16%), Mr. Miftah Ismail (~31%), Ms. Almas Maqsood, wife of Maqsood Ismail, (~30%), Mr. Ahmed Muhammad (~15%) and associates (~7%). The remaining shareholding is held by the general public. The ownership structure is stable as the Ismail family owns majority shares of the Company. Mr. Muhammad Ismail has been leading the Company for several years and has vast experience in the industry. The sponsors have been operating in the industry for over four decades and have very strong industry knowledge. In addition to being a major player in the confectionery, biscuits and snacks industry, the Group has interests in plastic films and wind power sectors.

Governance The Board of Directors of the company is primarily composed of members from the sponsoring family, totaling seven individuals. This composition includes the Chairman, two non-executive directors, two executive directors, and two independent directors. The Board members have strong profiles and specialize in diverse fields such as industrial engineering and economics, in addition to having strong knowledge of the confectionery, biscuits, and snacks industry. There are two Board committees, namely HR and Remuneration Committee, and Audit Committee. Minutes of the meetings were well recorded and reflected adequate participation and discussion from members including independent directors. Grant Thorton Anjum Rehman Chartered Accountants are the external auditors of the Company. They gave an unqualified opinion on the Company's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Management The Company has a well-defined organizational structure. Functions such as Accounts & Finance, HR, IT, and Supply Chain are common to the entire organization while Sales and Marketing departments are specific for each brand. Mr. Munsarim Saifullah is the Group CEO. A close associate of the sponsors, he has been involved with the Company since its inception. He has significant experience in production and engineering. Mr. Saifullah is aided by a team of experienced professionals. The Company has no management committees in place. However, members of the senior management regularly communicate and discuss ongoing issues and upcoming plans relating to relevant brands and management functions. The Company has implemented SAP to streamline the flow of information within the Company. All of the Company's products are ISO 22000 certified and have received Halal certifications from SANHA. The Company has an effective internal audit department that reports to the Audit Committee.

**Business Risk** In Pakistan, the convenience food market is mainly controlled by products produced domestically. This industry is fiercely competitive and the products are sensitive to changes in prices. The market operates with unbranded segment as a sizeable player. The food industry in Pakistan is growing at a rapid pace (CAGR of 6.6% during 2020-2025) due to increasing population, urbanization, and changing lifestyles. Going forward, cashflow and liquidity is expected to remain stable. It is also noteworthy that Pakistan's Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by ~26.89% in Oct-23 YoY basis, mainly due to significant increases in food, beverage, and transportation prices. The ongoing inflationary trend may affect the demand for convenience food products in the retail market due to the lower purchasing power of consumers. Ismail Industries Ltd is one of the leading players in the industry. Its flagship brand 'Candyland' is the market leader in the confectionery segment. The 'Bisconni' brand is the third largest in the biscuit segment, while 'Snackcity' is one of several players in the snacks segment who trail the market leader 'Lays'. 'Astro Films' is a major player in the film packaging segment. The Company earns its revenue from two segments - food (~83%) and plastic films (~17%). the major part of sales in derived from local sales that stood at PKR 59bln in FY23 (FY22: PKR 50bln). Export sales also increased and stood at PKR 39bln in FY23 (FY22: PKR 55bln). Increase in sales is mainly attributable to increase in demand of the products and due to higher prices. In FY23, gross profit margin increased and stood at 20.7% (FY22: PKR). The operating profit margin of company also increased and stood at 7.2% in FY23 (FY22: 4.6%). Total finance cost of the company increased and stood at PKR 4.3bln in FY23 (FY22: PKR1.4bln).

**Financial Risk** The company has been able to maintain an adequate working capital cycle as the average inventory days increased and stood at 53 days in FY23 (FY22: 50 days). Trade receivable slightly increased and stood at 33 in FY23 (FY22: 30 days). Company's net working capital also showed a slight improvement and stood on 68 days in FY23 (FY22: 71 days). The company has significant capacity to leverage short-term trade assets for borrowing purposes. In FY23, company experienced a significant increase in free cash flows from operations (FY23: PKR 13bln , FY22: PKR 5.9bln) on the back of higher profitability (FY23: PKR 6.3bln, FY22: PKR 2.5bln). The Company's interest coverage ratio witnessed deterioration and stood at 3.1x in FY23 (FY22: 4.6x). While total interest cover increased to 1.6x in FY23 (FY22: 1.3x).ISIL has a highly leveraged capital structure with a leveraging ratio of ~70% as of FY23 (FY22: ~71%). However, major borrowings remain from SBP at subsidized rates. Total Debt of the Company stood at PKR 42bln in FY23 (FY22: PKR 32bln).

#### Instrument Rating Considerations

About The Instrument The Company is in the process of issuing a rated, privately placed, unsecured short-term Sukuk or Islamic commercial paper, Ismail Industries Limited | PPSTS | PKR 4bln | TBI of PKR 4bln in Jan'24. The drawdown will be in one tranche. Tenor of the instrument will be 6 months. The purpose of the instrument is to be utilized to meet Working capital requirements. The profit rate consists of 6MK+50bps. Profit and principal will be made in a bullet payment at the time of maturity.

#### Relative Seniority/Subordination Of Instrument The instrument is unsecured.

**Credit Enhancement** Facility Covenants to be mutually agreed between the Issuer and the Financial advisors and arrangers in the Facility Documents. All applicable Regulations and Guidelines issue by the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan ("SECP").

The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited							Financial Summar PKR ml
Ismail Industries	Jun-23	Mar-23	Dec-22	Jun-22	Mar-22	Dec-21	Jun-21
Food Products	12M	9M	6M	12M	9M	6M	12M
A BALANCE SHEET							
1 Non-Current Assets	28,867	28,278	27,492	25,157	24,010	22,362	20,941
2 Investments	1,151	1,323	1,119	965	961	580	318
3 Related Party Exposure	8,751	7,114	7,160	7,146	5,880	5,899	5,278
4 Current Assets	34,286	34,129	26,956	18,076	20,078	18,932	14,45
a Inventories	15,885	14,628	10,911	8,338	7,952	7,634	7,57
b Trade Receivables	10,505	12,534	10,335	5,746	7,631	5,969	3,34
5 Total Assets	73,056	70,844	62,726	51,344	50,930	47,773	40,99
6 Current Liabilities	10,469	6,525	5,014	4,239	8,105	6,902	4,73
a Trade Payables 7 Borrowings	5,908	3,544	1,735 40,244	1,666	5,888	3,622 27,122	1,87 22,68
8 Related Party Exposure	42,397	45,170	40,244	32,166	28,438	27,122	22,080
9 Non-Current Liabilities	2,474	2,540	2,360	2,359	2,339	2,308	2,29
9 Non-Current Liabilities	17,716	2,340	2,360	12,580	12,048	2,308	11,27
11 Shareholders' Equity	17,716	16,609	15,108	12,580	12,048	11,440	11,27
	17,710	10,009	15,108	12,560	12,048	11,440	11,27
B INCOME STATEMENT	20.007				11.00		
1 Sales	88,906	64,151	41,100	55,261	41,627	26,503	37,30
a Cost of Good Sold 2 Gross Profit	(70,474) 18,432	(50,997) 13,154	(32,565) 8,535	(45,415) 9,845	(34,149) 7,478	(21,685) 4,818	(30,11)
a Operating Expenses 3 Operating Profit	(8,102) 10,330	(5,982) 7,172	(3,969) 4,566	(5,601) 4,244	(4,389) 3,089	(3,018) 1,800	(4,88
	1,601	614	4,500	4,244 557	268	283	2,30 60
a Non Operating Income or (Expense) 4 Profit or (Loss) before Interest and Tax	11.931	7,785	4,633	4,801	3,357	2.083	2,90
a Total Finance Cost	(4,399)	(2,632)	(1,498)	(1,414)	(963)	(585)	2,90
b Taxation	(1,150)	(2,052) (819)	(378)	(836)	(496)	(291)	(43
6 Net Income Or (Loss)	6,382	4,335	2,757	2,551	1,898	1,207	1,77
C CASH FLOW STATEMENT							
a Free Cash Flows from Operations (FCFO)	13,098	8,715	5,410	5,929	4,122	2,506	3,84
b Net Cash from Operating Activities before Working Capital Changes	13,098	6,470	4,153	4,726	3,272	1,962	3,74
c Changes in Working Capital	(9,763)	(12,264)	(6,589)	(1,345)	(2,072)	(1,913)	(1,65
1 Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	3,335	(5,793)	(2,436)	3,381	1,200	(1,913)	2,09
2 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Investing Activities	(7,769)	(5,199)	(3,612)	(8,621)	(5,622)	(3,038)	(3,20
3 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Financing Activities	1.439	11.744	6,634	5,339	4,755	3,440	1,20
4 Net Cash generated or (Used) during the period	(2,995)	752	585	99	333	451	9
) RATIO ANALYSIS							
1 Performance							
a Sales Growth (for the period)	60.9%	54.8%	48.7%	48.1%	48.8%	42.1%	12.3%
b Gross Profit Margin	20.7%	20.5%	20.8%	17.8%	18.0%	18.2%	19.3%
c Net Profit Margin	7.2%	6.8%	6.7%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%	4.8%
d Cash Conversion Efficiency (FCFO adjusted for Working Capital/Sales)	3.8%	-5.5%	-2.9%	8.3%	4.9%	2.2%	5.9%
e Return on Equity [ Net Profit Margin * Asset Turnover * (Total Assets/Shareholders' Equity )]	42.1%	39.6%	39.8%	21.4%	21.7%	21.3%	16.8%
2 Working Capital Management							
a Gross Working Capital (Average Days)	83	88	78	83	87	84	100
b Net Working Capital (Average Days)	68	77	71	71	62	66	80
c Current Ratio (Current Assets / Current Liabilities) 3 Coverages	3.3	5.2	5.4	4.3	2.5	2.7	3.1
a EBITDA / Finance Cost	3.4	4.0	4.3	5.2	5.5	5.5	6.7
b FCFO / Finance Cost+CMLTB+Excess STB	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9
c Debt Payback (Total Borrowings+Excess STB) / (FCFO-Finance Cost)	3.1	3.2	3.4	5.0	4.3	4.6	5.1
4 Capital Structure	2.1	2.2		510			2.1
a Total Borrowings / (Total Borrowings+Shareholders' Equity)	70.5%	73.1%	72.7%	71.9%	70.2%	70.3%	66.8%
b Interest or Markup Payable (Days)	95.7	86.6	82.0	105.7	89.8	72.6	97.9

## Corporate Rating Criteria

Scale

Short-term Rating

Definition The highest capacity for timely repayment.

A strong capacity for timely

repayment. A satisfactory capacity for timely repayment. This may be susceptible to

adverse changes in business. economic, or financial conditions An adequate capacity for timely repayment.

Such capacity is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial The capacity for timely repayment is more susceptible to adverse changes in business,

economic, or financial conditions. Liquidity may not be sufficient. Short-term Rating **A1** 

A1+

AAA AA+AA AA- $\mathbf{A}$ + A

A-BBB-BBB BBB-BB+ BB BB  $\mathbf{R}$ + В B-CCC CC С

A2

A3

**Credit Rating** 

Credit rating reflects forward-looking opinion on credit worthiness of underlying entity or instrument; more specifically it covers relative ability to honor financial obligations. The primary factor being captured on the rating scale is relative likelihood of default.

	Long-term Rating					
scale	Definition					
AAA	Highest credit quality. Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments					
A+						
AA	Very high credit quality. Very low expectation of credit risk. Indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.					
AA-						
A+						
A	High credit quality. Low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions.					
<b>A-</b>						
BB+						
BBB	<b>Good credit quality.</b> Currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.					
BBB-						
BB+	Madanata dala Davahilitara Canadia dala davahasina Titana ina masihilitara Canadia dala					
BB	Moderate risk. Possibility of credit risk developing. There is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as a result of adverse economic or business changes over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.					
BB-						
B+						
B	<b>High credit risk.</b> A limited margin of safety remains against credit risk. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.					
B-						
CC	Very high credit risk. Substantial credit risk "CCC" Default is a real possibility.					
CC	Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. "CC" Rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. "C" Ratings signal imminent default.					
С	appears probable. C Ratings signal miniment default.					
D	Obligations are currently in default.					

CRA

\*The correlation shown is indicative and, in certain cases, may not hold.

Outlook (Stable, Positive, Negative, Developing) Indicates the potential and direction of a rating over the intermediate term in response to trends in economic and/or fundamental business/financial conditions. It is not necessarily a precursor to a rating change. 'Stable' outlook means a rating is not likely to change. 'Positive' means it may be raised. 'Negative' means it may be lowered. Where the trends have conflicting elements, the outlook may be described as 'Developing'.	Rating Watch Alerts to the possibility of a rating change subsequent to, or, in anticipation of some material identifiable event with indeterminable rating implications. But it does not mean that a rating change is inevitable. A watch should be resolved within foreseeable future, but may continue if underlying circumstances are not settled. Rating watch may accompany rating outlook of the respective opinion.	Suspension It is not possible to update an opinion due to lack of requisite information. Opinion should be resumed in foreseeable future. However, if this does not happen within six (6) months, the rating should be considered withdrawn.	Withdrawn A rating is withdrawn on a) termination of rating mandate, b) the debt instrument is redeemed, c) the rating remains suspended for six months, d) the entity/issuer defaults., or/and e) PACRA finds it impractical to surveill the opinion due to lack of requisite information.	Harmonization A change in rating due to revision in applicable methodology or underlying scale.
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Surveillance. Surveillance on a publicly disseminated rating opinion is carried out on an ongoing basis till it is formally suspended or withdrawn. A comprehensive surveillance of rating opinion is carried out at least once every six months. However, a rating opinion may be reviewed in the intervening period if it is necessitated by any material happening.

**Note.** This scale is applicable to the following methodology(s):

- a) Broker Entity Rating
- b) Corporate Rating
  - c) Debt Instrument Rating d) Financial Institution Rating
- e) Holding Company Rating
- f) Independent Power Producer Rating
- g) Microfinance Institution Rating h) Non-Banking Finance Companies Rating

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(1) Rating is just an opinion about the creditworthiness of the entity and does not constitute recommendation to buy, hold or sell any security of the entity rated or to buy, hold or sell the security rated, as the case may be | Chapter III; 14-3-(x)

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ii. PACRA, the analysts involved in the rating process and members of its rating committee, and their family members, do not have any conflict of interest relating to the rating done by them | Chapter III; 12-2-(e) & (k)

iii. The analyst is not a substantial shareholder of the customer being rated by PACRA [Annexure F; d-(ii)] Explanation: for the purpose of above clause, the term "family members" shall include only those family members who are dependent on the analyst and members of the rating committee

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(19) PACRA reviews all the outstanding ratings periodically, on annual basis; Provided that public dissemination of annual review and, in an instance of change in rating will be made; | Chapter III | 17-(b)

(20) PACRA initiates immediate review of the outstanding rating upon becoming aware of any information that may reasonably be expected to result in downgrading of the rating; | Chapter III | 17-(c)

(21) PACRA engages with the issuer and the debt securities trustee, to remain updated on all information pertaining to the rating of the

#### entity/instrument;| Chapter III | 17-(d)

#### **Probability of Default**

(22) PACRA's Rating Scale reflects the expectation of credit risk. The highest rating has the lowest relative likelihood of default (i.e., probability). PACRA's transition studies capture the historical performance behavior of a specific rating notch. Transition behavior of the assigned rating can be obtained from PACRA's Transition Study available at our website. (www.pacra.com). However, actual transition of rating may not follow the pattern observed in the past; | Chapter III | 14-3(f)(vii)

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# PACRA

#### Regulatory and Supplementary Disclosure

Nature of Instrument	Size of Issue (PKR)	Tenor	Security		Quantum of Security	Nature of Assets	Investment Agent	Book Value of Assets (PKR mln)	
Rated, Unsecured, Privately placed, Short-term Sukuk (PPSTS)	4,000mln	Up to 6 months from the date of drawdown	Unsecured		N/A	N/A	Pak Oman	N/A	
Name of Issuer Ismail Industries Limited Issue Date Jan-24									
Maturity		6 months after the issuance							
Due Date Principal*	<b>Opening Principal</b>	Principal Repayment*	Due Date Markup/	Markup/Profit rate	6M Kibor + 50bps	Markup/Profit Payment	Installment Payable	Principal Outstanding	
	PKR in mln		Profit*			PKR in mln			
Issuance								4,000	
31-Jan-24	4,000			6M KIBOR + 0.5%	21.97%			4,000	
31-Jul-24	4,000	4,000	31-Jul-24	6M KIBOR + 0.5%	21.97%	2,636	6,636	-	
	-	4,000	-			2,636	6,636		

\* Sukuk will be issued at a face value of PKR 1,000,000 each or in multiples thereof.