

SÜDZUCKER SHARES AND CAPITAL MARKET

Capital market environment

Developments on the stock exchanges during fiscal 2023/24 were shaped by the ongoing global crises. Alongside the continued effects of the Corona pandemic, the global consequences of the war being waged in Ukraine since February 2022 – including inflation, volatility of energy prices and worsening supply chain problems – continue to be felt. Nevertheless, the stock markets in particular proved resilient to the numerous negative events. The peak index levels reached in November 2021 were surpassed by some indices (Dow Jones, Nasdaq, DAX®), while the indices for small-cap stocks (MDAX® and SDAX®) were well below their highs at the time.

For example, turbulence in the banking sector in the USA (including Silicon Valley Bank) and Switzerland (Crédit Suisse) weighed on sentiment at the end of the first quarter of 2023. In the second quarter of 2023, concerns about the economy and potential recessions in Europe, along with the dispute over the debt ceiling in the US that was resolved at the last minute, significantly influenced market dynamics. In addition to the resurgence of inflation concerns due to the considerable increase in oil prices, the third quarter of 2023 saw numerous other events (such as growth concerns in the US, corporate earnings falling short of expectations and issues within the Chinese financial sector) that led to substantial interim declines in stock and bond prices. In the final quarter of the year, statements from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell indicating that interest rates might remain “higher for longer” along with the onset of the conflict in the Middle East, initially caused uncertainty. In November 2023, however, a year-end rally in stocks and bonds set in, boosted by lower inflation figures in Europe and the USA along with repeated signals from

central banks that the cycle of interest rate hikes had ended and statements indicating a shift towards interest rate cuts.

Prior to the pandemic-related economic crisis already emerging in early 2020, the U.S. Federal Reserve had cut the key interest rate to

just 0.25 % in March 2020. From March 2022, several increases in the key interest rate were made to combat inflation to 5.25 % in July 2023. The European Central Bank subsequently followed this trend with key interest rate increases to 4.50 % in September 2023.

Südzucker’s share price performance

1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024
Share price in €



¹ The forecast relates to the expected consolidated group operating result during the respective fiscal year.

DIAGRAM 001

Südzucker share data

		2023/24	2022/23
Market capitalization ¹	€ million	2,670	3,278
Freefloat-market capitalization ¹	€ million	752	951
Number of shares outstanding at € 1 ¹	shares	204,107,259	204,107,259
Xetra [®] closing price ¹	€	13.08	16.06
High for the year (Xetra [®])	€	18.87	17.36
Low for the year (Xetra [®])	€	12.88	10.05
Average trading volume / day ²	thousands of shares	392	539
Cumulative trading turnover	€ million	1,523	1,894
Closing rate SDAX ^{®1}	points	13,772	13,383
Performance Südzucker share (1 March to 28/29 February) ³	%	-15.1	35.5
Performance SDAX [®] (1 March to 28/29 February)	%	2.9	-7.5
Dividend ⁴	€/share	0.90	0.70
Dividend yield	%	6.9	4.4
Earnings per share	€	2.72	1.93

¹ Balance sheet date.

² Total daily trading volume on all German stock exchanges where the share is admitted for trading.

³ Südzucker total return index, considers share development and dividend distribution.

⁴ 2023/24: Proposal.

TABLE 004

The yield on ten-year government bonds, which had been temporarily positive at the beginning of calendar year 2022, was +2.28 % at the end of February 2024. As a result, there was still a difference in yield between ten-year government bonds and the dividend yield of the DAX[®], which remains above 3 %.

The MDAX[®] and SDAX[®] reached their respective annual lows in parallel on 10 March 2023, while the DAX[®] reached its annual low on 27 October 2023. The DAX[®], MDAX[®] and SDAX[®] exited at the end of February 2024 at 17,678, 25,825 and 13,772 points respectively.

Südzucker's share price performance

Starting from an opening price of € 16.10 on 1 March 2023, the Südzucker share price recorded its high for the year of € 18.87 on 9 May 2023 following the dividend announcement for fiscal 2022/23 and the forecast increase for the 2023/24 financial year. However, despite further forecast increases, it was not possible to maintain this level. The share price reached its low for the year of € 12.88 on 9 February 2024. Südzucker's share price closed at € 13.08 at the end of the fiscal year. The performance (-15.08 %) could by no means keep pace with that of the SDAX[®] (+2.91 %).

Südzucker's share price performance vs. the MDAX[®] and SDAX[®]

1 March 2019 to 29 February 2024
Index in %

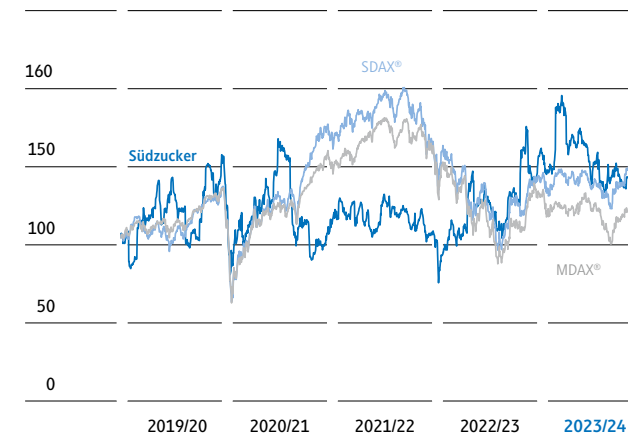


DIAGRAM 002

Shareholder structure stable

Südzucker AG continued to have two major long-term shareholders. As of 29 February 2024, Süddeutsche Zuckerrübenverwertungsgenossenschaft eG held 61.58 % of Südzucker AG's shares (own shares and fiduciary shares). Zucker Invest GmbH, the second major shareholder representing Austrian shareholders of Raiffeisengruppe, held 10.25 % of the shares. The free float portion of Südzucker shares, 28.17 %, is held by private investors, investment funds, pension funds and insurance companies mainly in Europe and North America.

Südzucker AG bonds

Bond	Coupon	Volume	ISIN	Listed on
Hybrid Bond 2005 Perpetual NC 10 ¹	variable	€ 700 million	XS0222524372	Luxembourg (regulated market)
Bond 2016/2023 ²	1.250 %	€ 300 million	XS1524573752	Luxembourg (regulated market)
Bond 2017/2025	1.000 %	€ 500 million	XS1724873275	Luxembourg (regulated market)
Sustainability-Linked Bond 2022/2027	5.125 %	€ 400 million	XS2550868801	Luxembourg (regulated market)

¹ First issuer call right for Südzucker as of 30 June 2015; subject to Südzucker having issued, within the twelve months preceding the call becoming effective, parity securities and/or junior securities (hybrid capital or shares) under terms and conditions similar to those of the bond (according to § 6 para. 5 and 6 of terms and conditions).

² Repaid on 29 November 2023.

TABLE 005

Rating

Südzucker's clear strategic aim is to maintain and confirm its investment grade rating. The company's conservative financial policies focus on strengthening the balance sheet and earnings indicators.

Südzucker has commissioned Moody's rating agency since 1991 to evaluate and publish its corporate credit profile. In addition, Standard & Poor's (S&P) has evaluated the creditworthiness of the company and its bonds since 2003. Südzucker has always received an investment grade rating, which is a testament to the company's strong creditworthiness, as well as its sustainable cash flow and earnings capacity.

On 13 June 2023, Moody's changed the outlook for the company's corporate and bond rating of Baa3 from "stable" to "positive". Moody's left the subordinated hybrid bond equity credit rating at 50 %.

S&P changed the outlook for the long-term corporate rating of BBB- from "stable" to "positive" on 9 June 2023. The subordinated hybrid bond was recognized at 50 % equity.

Communications with the capital markets

The communication with investors, analysts and other market participants increasingly took the form of personal meetings. The executive board and Investor Relations presented and explained the Group's performance in roadshows and conferences. Südzucker publishes all key information on its website in a timely and transparent manner.

Südzucker share stock market data

ISIN	DE 000 729 700 4
WKN	729 700
Trading places	Xetra®, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich, Hamburg, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Hanover (over-the-counter)
Ticker symbol	SZU
Reuters ticker symbol	SZUG.DE (Xetra®), SZUG.F (Frankfurt)
Bloomberg ticker symbol	SZU GY (Xetra®), SZU GF (Frankfurt)

TABLE 006