

CapitaLand Int. Comm. Trust (CICT SP)

Resilient performance

Stable distribution, priming for flexibility

CICT reported 2H24 DPU of SGD5.45c, +0.4% HoH/flat YoY. Organic and inorganic growth offset the impact of higher financing expense and increased number of units. Portfolio metrics were steady with occupancy inching up for retail and office assets. Positive reversions continued despite on-going sequential normalization. Portfolio value inched up, anchored by local assets. Gearing fell from portfolio reconstitution. Refinancing in FY25E is likely to result in higher cost of debt. Maintain BUY due to stable distribution profile, strong credit and fair valuation.

Higher occupancy, positive reversions

2H24 revenue and NPI of SGD794.4m and SGD571.1m were +1.2% and +1.3% YoY, respectively. Growth was organic despite absence of contributions due to divestment and asset enhancement initiatives (AEI). Notwithstanding higher financing expense and an enlarged base of units, distributable income and DPU were stable to higher mainly from higher distribution from the JV due to acquisition of 50% of ION Orchard and a higher payout ratio. Occupancy inched up to 96.7% (3Q24: 96.4%), led by higher occupancy across retail, office and integrated developments. Singapore and Australia offices saw higher occupancy while it fell in Germany due to downsizing by tenants. Office rent reversion was lower but positive (+11.1% vs 9MYTD of +11.7%). Retail rent reversion was +8.8% for the full year (9MYTD +9.2%) with a similar trend across suburban and downtown malls. Tenant sales on same-store basis was relatively flat for the full year. The outlook by CICT suggests nimble management of retail reversion and occupancy costs. Fee in units stayed at unchanged level as ION Orchard delivered better operational performance (98% occupancy vs 96% during the acquisition). Management will strive to keep fee in units at unchanged level.

Prudent capital management

Gearing was 38.5% (3Q 39.4%), benefitting from portfolio reconstitution. Cost of debt for FY25 is expected to rise to c.4% from refinancing (FY24 3.6%). Asset values were +6.2% (+1.3% on same-store basis) as higher cap rates in Australia were offset by higher values in Singapore. Commentary suggests continued focus on well-timed AElS to generate mid to high-single digit returns, and, opportunistically scaling up overseas (capped at 20%).

Maintain BUY

We tweak our forecasts by factoring in higher cost of debt and operational trend from 2H24. All-in, it results in c.1% lower DPU for FY26 and lower DDM-based TP of SGD2.25. Maintain BUY on stable yield and strong credit.

FYE Dec (SGD m)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	1,560	1,586	1,590	1,629	1,637
Net property income	1,116	1,153	1,156	1,180	1,190
Core net profit	728	794	839	872	881
Core EPU (cts)	11.0	11.6	11.5	11.9	12.0
Core EPU growth (%)	1.8	5.6	(0.8)	3.5	0.6
DPU (cts)	10.8	10.9	11.1	11.9	12.0
DPU growth (%)	1.6	1.2	2.3	6.7	0.6
P/NTA (x)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
DPU yield (%)	5.2	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.2
ROAE (%)	5.8	6.0	7.4	6.4	6.4
ROAA (%)	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Debt/Assets (x)	0.38	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.34
Consensus DPU	-	-	11.0	11.8	12.0
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	1.0	0.7	(0.4)

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BUY

Share Price	SGD 1.94
12m Price Target	SGD 2.25 (+16%)
Previous Price Target	SGD 2.30

Company Description

CapitaLand Integrated Commercial Trust operates as a real estate investment trust, established through the merger of CMT and CCT.

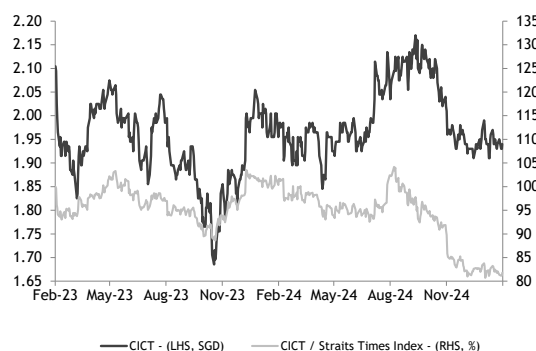
Statistics

52w high/low (SGD)	2.17/1.85
3m avg turnover (USDm)	33.7
Free float (%)	68.1
Issued shares (m)	6,652
Market capitalisation	SGD12.9B
	USD9.6B

Major shareholders:

Temasek Holdings Pte Ltd. (Investment Ma	19.7%
DBS Group Holdings Ltd.	9.4%
The Vanguard Group, Inc.	2.8%

Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(2)	(4)	(1)
Relative to index (%)	(2)	(10)	(19)

Source: FactSet

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1. Result details

Fig 1: 2H24 results

(SGD m)	4Q24	% QoQ	% YoY	2H24	%HoH	%YoY	FY23	FY24	% YoY
Retail	150.6	2.5	5.0	297.5	1.6	4.1	570.5	590.3	
Office	123.6	-0.4	-7.3	252.9	-2.9	-4.5	521.9	513.4	
Integrated developments	122.3	2.4	4.4	244.0	2.2	4.0	467.6	482.7	
Gross revenue	396.5			794.4			1560	1586.4	
Retail	104.5	0.3	5.8	208.8	-1.2	5.7	396.3	420.1	
Office	92.5	1.2	-16.4	190.7	-3.2	-6.5	391.0	387.7	
Integrated developments	84.3	-0.5	6.4	171.6	-1.4	5.9	328.6	345.7	
Net property income	281.3			571.1			1115.9	1153.5	
Gross revenue	396.5	-0.4	0.7	794.4	0.3	1.2	1560.0	1586.4	1.7
Property expenses	(115.2)			-223.3			-444.1	-432.9	
Net property income	281.3	-2.9	-2.5	571.1	-1.9	1.3	1115.9	1153.5	3.4
Borrowing costs				-175.7	3.6	4.5	-322.1	-345.4	7.2
Mgmt. Fees & Trust expenses				-53.6	6.5	8.2	-98.4	-104.0	5.7
Interest income				7.3	33.9	-1.1	11.3	12.7	
Investment income				5.2	22.0	-26.6	12.8	9.4	
Share of results of JVs (net of tax)				31.1			15.6	33.8	
Distribution from JVs for the period				18.6			8.8	21.9	
Operating income including JV distributions				372.7	-0.7	1.7	728.3	748.1	
Total distributable income				385.7	5.2	6.4	715.7	752.2	5.1
DPU (SGD cts)				5.45	0.4	0.0	10.75	10.88	1.2
NAV per unit (SGD)				2.12	-0.5	-0.5	2.13	2.12	-0.5
Aggregate leverage (%)	38.5	(90)	(140)	38.5	(130)	(140)	39.9	38.5	(140)
All-in financing cost (%)	3.6	0	20	3.6	10	20	3.4	3.6	20

Source: Maybank IBG Research

Fig 2: 2H24 operational trend

	4Q24	% QoQ	% YoY	2H24	%HoH	%YoY
Occupancy (%)	96.7	30	(60)	96.7	(0.1)	(60)
-Retail	99.3	30	80	99.3	0.3	80
- Office	94.8	20	(190)	94.8	(0.5)	(190)
- Office, SG	97.6	20	(90)	97.6	0.3	(90)
- Office, Germany	81.8	(90)	(1270)	81.8	(8.5)	(1270)
- Office, AU	89.6	120	110	89.6	1.8	110
-Integrated Development	98.9	70	40	98.9	0.1	40
Office YTD Rent reversion, %	11.1	(60)	210			
Retail YTD rent reversion (%)	8.8	(40)	30			
-Suburban	9.0					
- Downtown	8.6					
Retail YTD tenant sales psf	3.4					
YoY growth (%)						
-Suburban	0.4					
- Downtown	8.8					
NPI margin (%)	70.9	(189)	(232)	71.9	(2.2)	11
Retail	69.4	(161)	49	70.2	(2.7)	102
Office	74.8	(111)	(807)	75.4	(0.3)	(160)
Integrated Development	68.9	(280)	129	70.3	(3.6)	126

Source: Maybank IBG Research

2. Forecast changes

Fig 3: Changes to our forecasts

(SGD m)	FY25E (old)	FY26E (old)	FY25E (new)	FY26E (new)	FY25E, % Chng	FY26E, % Chng
Revenue	1566	1653	1590	1629	1.6%	-1.4%
NPI	1127	1183	1156	1180	2.6%	-0.2%
Mgmt fees	-120	-124	-122	-123	1.0%	-0.2%
Borrowing cost	-340	-335	-352	-343	3.6%	2.3%
Interest & invest inc	20	20	20	20		
Distribution from JV	80	80	80	80	0.0%	0.4%
Distributable income	809	884	814	872	0.6%	-1.3%
DPU (SGD)	11.12	12.01	11.13	11.88	0.1%	-1.0%

Source: Maybank IBG Research

3. Valuation

We value CICT using a 3-stage DDM model with a cost of equity of 7.0%, in line with peers. We raise cost of debt assumption in line with guidance. Top line changes are mainly from factoring in the operational trend of 2H24 numbers. All in, FY25 DPU is relatively unchanged while FY26 DPU is lower by 1%. We lower our TP to SGD2.25 from SGD2.30. Maintain BUY on defensive portfolio and strong credit.

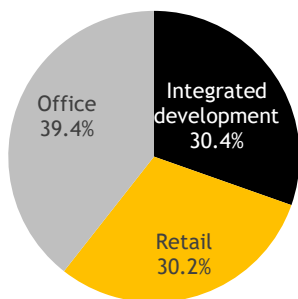
4. Risks

Slowdown in retail sales drivers, non-renewal of office leases, higher interest rates, dilutive M&As, and unnecessary geographic diversification.

Value Proposition

- Formed in Nov 2020 as a result of the merger between CCT and CMT, and is the largest proxy to Singapore commercial real estate, with 26 retail, office and integrated development assets in Singapore, Australia and Germany valued at SGD24.5b as of end-Dec 2023.
- Backed by sponsor CapitaLand Investment, one of Asia’s largest real-estate investment managers with SGD134b in real estate AUM and SGD100b of funds-under-management (FUM) as at end-June 2024.
- Sponsor offers a right-of-first refusal pipeline with a book value equivalent to 5-10% of its AUM.
- A more diversified AUM and higher SGD6b development headroom to add growth options, and support its portfolio remodelling over the medium term.

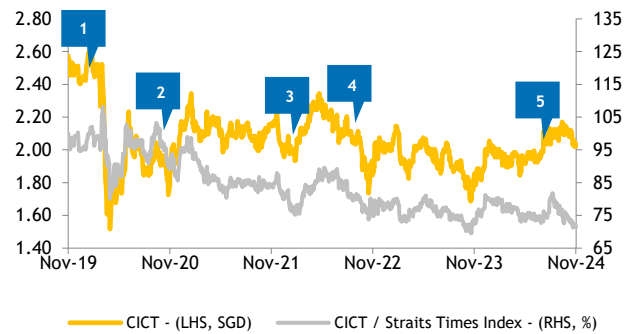
AUM breakdown (as of end-Dec 2023)



Source: Company

Price Drivers

Historical share price trend



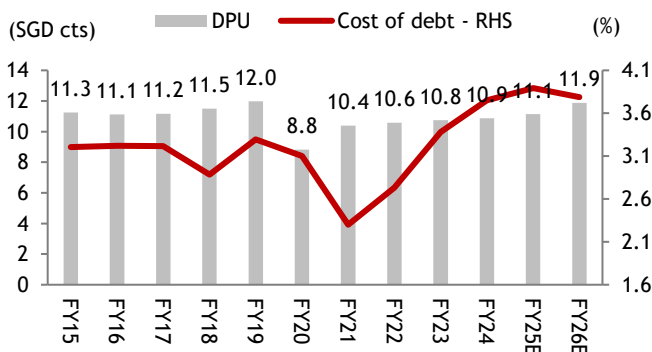
Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

- Jan-20: CMT announces merger with CCT to create the largest S-REIT and second-largest APAC commercial REIT with a SGD22.4b AUM.
- Nov-20: CMT renamed as CICT, commenced trading post-merger, with three distinct property segments (retail, office and integrated development).
- Dec-21: Recycles part of One George Street divestment proceeds to two Grade A Australian office properties from sponsor at 5.2% NPI yield and +3.1% DPU accretion.
- Mar-22: Proposed acquisition of 70% interest in 79 Robinson Road
- Sep-24: Proposed acquisition of 50% interest in ION Orchard

Financial Metrics

- DPU to improve by 4.8% CAGR in FY23-FY26E, due to organic and inorganic growth, higher margin & lower borrowing cost.
- FY25E likely to experience of combination of high base effect, slowing growth and slow tapering of borrowing cost. This will be offset by backfilling of space in German and Australia office assets as well as contribution from ION.
- Conservatively, we assume financing expense for FY25 to be in line with FY24 given the currency profile of expiring debt.

Cost of debt and DPU growth profile



Source: Company

Swing Factors

Upside

- Earlier-than-expected pick-up in leasing demand for retail or office space driving improvement in occupancy.
- Better-than-anticipated rental reversions.
- Accretive acquisitions or redevelopment projects.

Downside

- Prolonged slowdown in economic activity could reduce demand for retail or office space, resulting in lower occupancy and rental rates.
- Termination of long-term leases contributing to weaker portfolio tenant retention rate.
- Sharper-than-expected rise in interest rates could increase cost of debt and negatively impact earnings, with higher cost of capital lowering valuations.

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Risk Rating & Score¹	10.2 (Low)
Score Momentum²	-0.7
Last Updated	24 Nov 2022
Controversy Score³ (Updated: 24 Nov 2022)	0

Business Model & Industry Issues

- CICT draws on its available pool of funds to invest in commercial real estate, undertake asset enhancements, and redevelop properties to optimise value for its unit holders. It is susceptible to sustainability-focused investors with strong preference for investing in companies that meet specific ESG criteria, given its incessant need for additional capital.
- Its activities relating to its permissible investments, leverage limits, and annual reporting requirements are closely regulated by the MAS under Singapore’s code on collective investment schemes. Independence, real estate and capital markets know-how on its board is high, with representation by members with international experience, essential given its overseas portfolio will increasingly be a growth platform.
- As the largest owner of shopping centre floor space and office properties in Singapore, it attentively monitors building and environmental efficiency across its 10.6m sf NLA, and has set medium-term 2030 targets on carbon emission, energy and water intensity reductions. These efforts have also been recognised by the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark.
- Its large and diversified portfolio has increased the extent for value-generating redevelopments and AELs. The repositioning of Funan into an integrated development with retail, office and co-living spaces has broadened the scope of its social initiatives

Material E issues

- 99% of portfolio by GFA is green-rated. 42.8% is BCA Green Mark Platinum while 42.9% is BCA Green Mark Gold & Gold PLUS. Rest have LEED Gold, BREEAM Good and NABERS Energy rating. Only 0.6% of GFA is non-rated.
- Long-term targets are aligned to science-based goals in CapitaLand’s 2030 Sustainability Master Plan, from a 2008 base year, to reduce by 2030: (a) energy intensity by 35%; (b) carbon emissions intensity by 78%; (c) water intensity by 45%; and to achieve (d) 35% of electricity consumption from renewable sources; and (e) 25% recycling rate.
- Green/ sustainability-linked loans are now c.42% of total borrowings, as of end 2023

Material S issues

- Its sponsor allocates up to 3.0% of its annual wage bill towards learning and development programmes for its employees, which is supported by its in-house training hub - CapitaLand Institute of Management and Business.
- Gender diversity is high at CICT, with female representation at 57% amongst all employees (in 2021), 63% at the management level, and the Chairman’s seat on the board.
- Funan, which was redeveloped and conceptualised as an integrated development to comprise retail, office and co-living spaces, to offer roof-top urban farming, an indoor rock-climbing facility, and 170 bicycle bays. It will also leverage digital tools to enhance the shopper experience.
- Two of its malls house community libraries and both have gained additional GFA from URA’s community and sports facilities scheme.

Key G metrics and issues

- Managed externally by wholly-owned subsidiaries of its sponsor CapitaLand Investment, which supports its growth via a pipeline of property assets from its development activities, and access to capital markets.
- Board independence is high - 5 of its 8 members, including the Chairman, are independent, and the CEO is the only executive and non-independent member.
- Revised performance fee from 2.85% of gross revenue to 4.25% of NPI at the 2016 AGM. This, and its base fee at 0.25% of deposited property and acquisition and disposal fee at 1.0% and 0.5% of deal value, is comparable to peers.
- The cumulative remuneration of its key management team including the CEO has never represented >0.6% of the REIT’s distributable income since this was first reported in FY16.
- Payout ratio for taxable income has been consistently maintained above the minimum 90% threshold for tax transparency. Management retained 70% of its 1Q20 distributable income in light of a challenging outlook for its retail properties due to Covid-19.
- Has scaled up via DPU-accretive acquisitions from its sponsor’s pipeline. The deal process is rigorous; involving a review by the board’s audit committee, and if valued >5% of NAV, unit holders’ approval at an EGM.
- Its merger with CCT was effective in Nov 2020 as it aimed to create a third largest APAC REIT with SGD22.9b AUM across 10.4m sf of commercial NLA, and serve as its sponsor’s primary investment vehicle for commercial real estate in Singapore and other developed markets.
- Generated value from its AELs at Junction 8 and IMM, and divestments of Rivervale Mall and Sembawang Shopping Centre (192% and 218% over purchase price).

¹**Risk Rating & Score** - derived by Sustainalytics and assesses the company’s exposure to unmanaged ESG risks. Scores range between 0 - 50 in order of increasing severity with low/high scores & ratings representing negligible/significant risk to the company’s enterprise value, respectively, from ESG-driven financial impacts. ²**Score Momentum** - indicates changes to the company’s score since the last update - a **negative** integer indicates a company’s improving risk score; a **positive** integer indicates a deterioration. ³**Controversy Score** - reported periodically by Sustainalytics in the event of material ESG-related incident(s), with the impact severity scores of these events ranging from Category 0-5 (0 - no reports; 1 - negligible risks; ...; 5 - poses serious risks & indicative of potential structural deficiencies at the company).

FYE 31 Dec	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Key Metrics					
Price/DPU(x)	19.1	17.7	17.4	16.3	16.2
P/BV (x)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
P/NTA (x)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
DPU yield (%)	5.2	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.2
FCF yield (%)	7.9	6.5	6.4	7.8	7.8
INCOME STATEMENT (SGD m)					
Revenue	1,559.9	1,586.3	1,590.2	1,628.7	1,637.2
Net property income	1,115.9	1,153.5	1,156.2	1,180.4	1,190.1
Management and trustee fees	(157.8)	(164.4)	(182.1)	(185.4)	(186.8)
Net financing costs	(322.1)	(345.4)	(352.1)	(342.6)	(342.6)
Associates & JV	15.6	33.8	121.6	121.4	121.6
Exceptionals	113.6	185.9	412.0	241.1	243.6
Other pretax income/expenses	58.5	22.1	20.0	20.0	20.0
Pretax profit	819.9	880.6	1,170.7	1,029.9	1,040.8
Income tax	(10.1)	6.5	(10.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)
Minorities	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Discontinued operations	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Total return avail to unitholders	814.8	892.0	1,165.7	1,024.9	1,035.8
Core net profit	728.5	794.4	839.4	872.1	881.1
Distributable inc to unitholders	715.7	752.2	814.2	872.1	881.1
BALANCE SHEET (SGD m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	140.7	156.4	134.6	162.2	210.1
Accounts receivable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Investment properties	24,024.9	23,702.3	24,114.3	24,355.5	24,599.0
Intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment in Associates & JVs	348.6	1,431.8	1,431.8	1,431.8	1,431.8
Other assets	220.0	217.9	217.9	217.9	217.9
Total assets	24,739.1	25,513.0	25,903.3	26,172.1	26,463.5
ST interest bearing debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accounts payable	342.7	375.0	375.0	375.0	375.0
LT interest bearing debt	9,477.7	8,945.1	9,045.1	9,045.1	9,045.1
Other liabilities	517.0	470.7	470.7	470.7	470.7
Total Liabilities	10,337.4	9,790.8	9,890.8	9,890.8	9,890.8
Shareholders Equity	14,199.8	15,524.5	15,814.7	16,083.5	16,374.9
Minority Interest	201.9	197.7	197.7	197.7	197.7
Total shareholder equity	14,401.7	15,722.2	16,012.4	16,281.2	16,572.6
Total liabilities and equity	24,739.1	25,513.0	25,903.3	26,172.1	26,463.5
CASH FLOW (SGD m)					
Cash flow from operations	1,079.8	1,044.2	1,081.7	1,104.9	1,114.0
Capex	0.0	(178.3)	(175.0)	0.0	0.0
Acquisitions & investments	(118.6)	(407.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disposal of FA & investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend income from associates	17.7	52.2	121.6	121.4	121.6
Other investing cash flow	62.1	12.7	16.0	16.0	36.0
CF from investing activities	(38.9)	(520.6)	(37.4)	137.4	157.6
Dividends paid	(708.2)	(758.5)	(814.2)	(872.1)	(881.1)
Interest expense	(329.6)	(341.3)	(352.1)	(342.6)	(342.6)
Change in debt	(100.4)	(500.7)	100.0	0.0	0.0
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	1,107.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other financial activities	(2.5)	(2.6)	0.0	0.0	0.0
CF from financing activities	(1,140.7)	(495.5)	(1,066.4)	(1,214.7)	(1,223.7)
Effect of exchange rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	(99.8)	28.1	(22.1)	27.6	47.9

FYE 31 Dec	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	8.2	1.7	0.2	2.4	0.5
Net property income growth	7.0	3.4	0.2	2.1	0.8
Core net profit growth	2.2	9.1	5.7	3.9	1.0
Distributable income growth	1.9	5.1	8.2	7.1	1.0
Profitability ratios (%)					
Net property income margin	71.5	72.7	72.7	72.5	72.7
Core net profit margin	46.7	50.1	52.8	53.5	53.8
Payout ratio	98.1	94.0	97.0	100.0	100.0
DuPont analysis					
Total return margin (%)	52.2	56.2	73.3	62.9	63.3
Gross revenue/Assets (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Assets/Equity (x)	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
ROAE (%)	5.8	6.0	7.4	6.4	6.4
ROAA (%)	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	64.8	55.9	55.6	54.6	53.3
Net interest cover (x)	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
Debt/EBITDA (x)	9.9	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.1
Capex/revenue (%)	0.0	11.2	11.0	0.0	0.0
Net debt/ (net cash)	9,337.0	8,788.8	8,910.6	8,882.9	8,835.0
Debt/Assets (x)	0.38	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.34

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research

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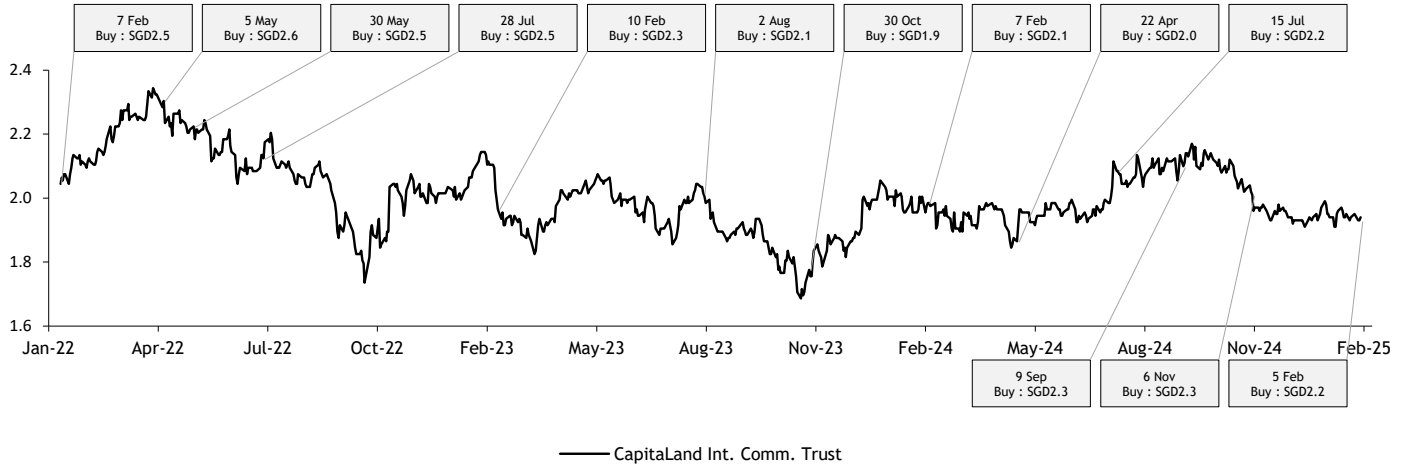
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