PeopleIn Limited

Rain on the parade

PeopleIn has reported unaudited March quarter EBITDA of \$6.3m, compared with \$6.9m during the pcp. The result was impacted by weather events in Queensland during March, equivalent to \$0.84m. We believe that the Food Industry People (FIP), industrial and construction segments were the most impacted, with some lingering effects likely during April. The company has highlighted generally challenging trading conditions, which pairs with results released by peers Hays and Robert Walters. Coupled with benign business confidence conditions, we have taken a more conservative view on the June quarter and FY26e outlook. FY25e EBITDA revises by -6% and FY26e by -9%. We have lowered near term dividend forecasts, given the focus on balance sheet improvement. Net debt/EBITDA ratios are materially improving, supported by a high level of free cash flow conversion. With a cyclically low valuation multiple we retain a BUY rating, noting the businesses capacity to generate higher returns from the permanent recruitment market once conditions improve.

Weather impacts the QLD franchises

 Excluding the weather impacts, March quarter EBITDA would have risen by ~3%. We see modest year-on-year EBITDA declines for the June quarter given the timing of public holidays and soft permanent recruitment market.

Next catalysts

Business confidence indicators, potential for sector consolidation,
 FY25 results, further evidence of balance sheet improvement.

BUY rating, price target \$1.06 (from \$1.15)

We expect PPE to report free cash flows of ~\$15m during FY25e and FY26e, supporting our BUY recommendation.

Key Financials

Key i manciats					
Year-end June (\$)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue (\$m)	1,186.3	1,174.8	1,117.4	1,156.9	1,193.3
EBITDA (\$m)	55.8	33.2	33.8	35.9	38.1
EBIT (\$m)	47.7	21.3	21.8	23.5	27.7
Reported NPAT (\$m)	20.6	5.4	4.4	6.8	15.5
Reported EPS (c)	20.4	5.2	4.1	6.3	14.2
Normalised NPAT (\$m)	29.1	9.3	10.0	12.4	16.1
Normalised EPS (c)	28.9	9.0	9.4	11.4	14.9
EPS Growth (%)	7.0	(68.9)	4.6	21.5	29.9
Dividend (c)	14.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
Net Yield (%)	18.4	3.9	2.6	3.9	5.3
Franking (%)	100	100	100	100	100
EV/EBITDA (X)	2.7	5.5	5.1	4.4	3.8
Normalised P/E (x)	2.6	8.4	8.1	6.6	5.1
Normalised ROE (%)	19.3	5.8	6.2	7.4	9.2

Source: OML, Iress, PeopleIn Limited

30 April 2025

Last Price

A\$0.76

Target Price

A\$1.06 (Previously A\$1.15)

Recommendation

Buy

Risk

Higher

Human Resource and Employment Services

ASX Code	9	PPE
52 Week F	Range (\$)	0.70 - 1.00
Market Ca	ap (\$m)	82.6
Shares Ou	utstanding (m)	108.7
Av Daily T	urnover (\$m)	0.2
3 Month T	otal Return (%)	-17.4
12 Month	Total Return (%)	-21.6
Benchma	rk 12 Mth Return (%)	6.0
NTA FY25	E (¢ per share)	-21.4
Net Debt	FY25E (\$m)	90.0
Shares Ou Av Daily To 3 Month T 12 Month Benchma NTA FY25	utstanding (m) urnover (\$m) otal Return (%) Total Return (%) rk 12 Mth Return (%) E (¢ per share)	108 0 -17 -21 6

Price performance



Source: FactSet

Consensus Earnings

	FY25E	FY26E
NPAT (C) (\$m)	10.1	13.8
NPAT (OM) (\$m)	10.0	12.4
EPS (C) (c)	9.6	12.8
EPS (OM) (c)	9.4	11.4

Source: OML, Iress, PeopleIn Limited

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Key takeaways and outlook

- Weather impacts 3Q25 EBITDA: PPE's unaudited 3Q EBITDA of \$6.3m includes ~\$0.8m of weather impacts from QLD flooding and rain events. Impacts were likely felt within the Industrial segment, including construction and FIP activities. We had expected March to be a strong month for PPE. Excluding the weather impacts, EBITDA would have grown by 3% relative to PCP.
- Negative profit revisions: We assume that PPE's 4Q25 EBITDA is marginally lower than 4Q24 given the timing of public holidays and persistent softness in the permanent recruitment market. Commentary from listed global peers Hays and Robert Walters, points to year-on-year declines of -9% and -11% respectively in net fees for the March quarter, in Australia. We have moderated revenue and margin expectations for PPE during 4Q25 and FY26e, to allow for the persistently slower conditions.

Figure 1: Forecast changes

PeopleIn (PPE)	FY2	25e	change	FY	26e	change	FY	27e	change
	old	new	%	old	new	%	old	new	%
revenue- segments \$m									
Industrial & Specialist	896	874	-3%	931	905	-3%	969	932	-4%
Health & Community*	134	130	-3%	138	134	-3%	142	138	-3%
Professional Services	113	114	1%	118	118	1%	123	123	0%
revenue- total	1143	1117	-2%	1186	1157	-2%	1234	1193	-3%
EBITDA- segments \$m							-		
Industrial & Specialist	25.6	25.0	-2%	28.1	27.4	-3%	30.0	29.5	-2%
Health & Community*	6.7	6.1	-9%	7.9	6.3	-20%	8.2	6.5	-20%
Professional Services	8.5	7.4	-13%	8.8	7.7	-12%	9.2	8.0	-13%
unallocated	-3.5	-3.5	0%	-4.0	-4.0	0%	-4.2	-4.5	7%
one-off (expenses) / refunds	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	0.0	na
EBITDA - pre SBP "PPE"		35.1	-6%	40.8	37.4	-8%	43.2	39.6	-8%
share based payments	-1.3	-1.5	15%	-1.5	-1.5	0%	- 2.0	-1.5	-25%
EBITDA- underlying	36.0	33.8	-6%	39.3	35.9	-9%	41.2	38.1	-8%
EBITDA margin %	3.3%	3.1%	-4%	3.4%	3.2%	-6%	3.5%	3.3%	-5%
Key P&L metrics \$m									
D&A- underlying	-11.9	-11 9	0%	-12 4	-12.4	0%	-10.4	-10.4	0%
EBIT		21.8	-9%		23.5	-13%	30.8	27.7	-10%
net interest		-7.5	7%	-6.6		13%	- 5.5	-4.6	17%
PBT - underlying		14.3	-11%	20.3		-13%	25.3	23.1	-9%
NPATA - underlying**		10.0	-11%		12.4	-13%	17.7	16.1	-9%
EPS (cents): EPS-A**	10.5		-11%	13.1		-13%	16.3	14.9	-9%
D&A - reported	-19.8		0%		-20.3		-11.1	-11.2	0%
Amortisation - abnormal	-7.9	-7.9	0%	-7.9	-7.9	0%	-0.8	-0.8	0%
Abnormals - pre-tax	-0.2	-0.2	na	-0.2	-0.2	na	-0.2	-0.2	na
reported NPAT	5.6	4.4	-21%	8.6	6.8	-21%	17.0	15.5	-9%
dividend (cents)	3.0	2.0	-33%	4.0	3.0	-25%	5.0	4.0	-20%
payout % cash EPS	28%	21%	-7%	30%	26%	-4%	31%	27%	-4%
Key metrics \$m									
operating cash flow	28.0	27.8	-1%	27.3	25.7	-6%	28.2	27.0	-4%
net capex & leases	-9.6	-9.6	0%	-9.9	-9.9	0%	-10.3	-10.1	1%
acquisitions (incl earn outs)	-3.7	-3.7	0%	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	0.0	na
free cash flow (post tax)		14.5	-2%	17.4		-9%	17.9	16.9	-6%
net debt (cash) incl leases	86.8	90.0	4%	72.5	76.3	5%	59.0	62.7	6%
net debt (cash) ex leases		65.3	5%		51.6	8%	34.2	37.9	11%
Net debt/EBITDA incl leases	2.4x	2.7x	11%	1.8x	2.1x	15%	1.4x	1.6x	15%
Net debt/ adj EBITDA ex leases	1.7x	1.9x	12%	1.2x	1.4x	18%	0.8x	1.0x	21%
ROE %	7%	6%	-9%	8%	7%	-10%	10%	9%	-6%
EV/EBITDA x	4.8	5.1	5%	4.1	4.4	8%	3.6	3.8	7%
EV/EBIT x	7.2	7.9	9%	5.9	6.8	14%	4.8	5.3	10%
P/E x	7.7	8.1	5%	6.2	6.6	8%	5.0	5.1	3%

^{**}Ords NPAT and EPS-A excludes only customer contract amortisation and tax adjusts for this.

Source: OML Research

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Valuation

BUY Recommendation, \$1.06 valuation (from \$1.15)

• We value PPE adopting a DCF methodology with a weighted average cost of capital of 12.5% (prev. 12.5%), cost of equity of 13.9% (prev. 14.2%) and terminal growth rate of 2.5%. The revised DCF valuation is \$1.06 per share (from \$1.15 per share). PPE trades on an EV/EBITDA ratio of 5.1x and an EV/EBIT ratio of 7.9x in FY25e. representing a -34% and -31% discount to the peer set respectively.

Figure 2: Peer multiples

	Mkt cap	EV	Pr	ice / Earnin	igs	E	V/ EBITDA	X	EV / S	ales x	Return or	n equity %	EV / I	EBIT x
Company	A\$m	A\$m	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
Creek & River Co Ltd (JP)	391	300	11.6	13.2	10.4	5.6	6.4	4.9	0.5	0.5	19.4	15.6	6.1	7.1
Persol Holdings (JP)	6,384	6,307	16.6	15.5	14.0	7.8	6.8	6.1	0.4	0.4	16.5	18.7	11.3	9.8
JAC Recruitment (JP)	1,518	1,325	22.2	18.4	15.6	12.8	10.7	9.0	3.1	2.6	34.9	40.4	13.6	11.7
WDB Holdings Co (JP)	401	201	10.1	11.2	11.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.3	0.3	11.9	10.0	3.0	3.3
Hays PLC (LN)	2,393	2,417	17.1	36.0	24.0	6.7	9.7	8.1	0.2	0.2	11.7	5.7	11.0	20.5
Page Group (LN)	1,747	1,831	25.2	39.9	19.0	7.6	8.5	6.3	0.5	0.6	11.7	10.3	16.8	24.9
Sthree PLC (LN)	655	597	6.8	17.5	13.8	3.4	6.5	5.6	0.2	0.2	20.3	8.0	4.3	11.2
Robert Walters (LN)	340	380	na	na	21.4	6.7	8.6	4.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.6	43.7	n.a.
AMN Healthcare (US)	1,201	2,959	6.6	21.1	13.3	5.5	8.4	7.5	0.6	0.7	10.4	2.8	15.9	96.3
Korn Ferry (US)	4,970	4,184	14.8	12.7	12.3	6.3	5.5	5.5	1.0	1.0	12.6	14.3	9.9	7.8
Brunel International (NA)	828	805	12.7	13.1	10.9	6.0	6.0	5.3	0.3	0.3	11.5	11.2	8.4	8.5
Recruit Holdings (JP)	134,867	128,066	34.9	29.3	25.5	20.7	18.4	16.5	3.4	3.3	20.0	21.4	27.9	23.5
Amadeus Fire (GR)	717	862	12.3	20.0	13.5	6.1	7.1	6.4	1.1	1.2	21.5	14.9	9.7	12.4
						,								
		Average	15.9	20.7	15.7	7.9	8.6	7.2	0.9	0.9	15.6	13.5	14.0	19.8
		Median	13.7	18.0	13.8	6.5	7.7	6.2	0.5	0.5	12.6	11.2	11.0	11.5
Peoplein	82	169	8.4	8.1	6.6	5.5	5.1	4.4	0.2	0.2	5.8	6.1	8.6	7.9

Source: Bloomberg, OML Research

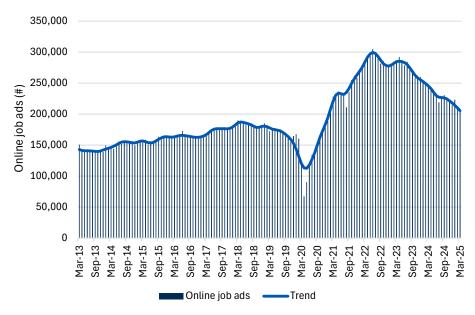
3



Industry conditions

In March '25 Internet job ads fell -17.3% (YoY) and declined -2.5% (MoM) to 204.8k. Job ads are 7% above the long-term average of ~192K per month, noting that Australia's population and labour force has grown over this time frame.

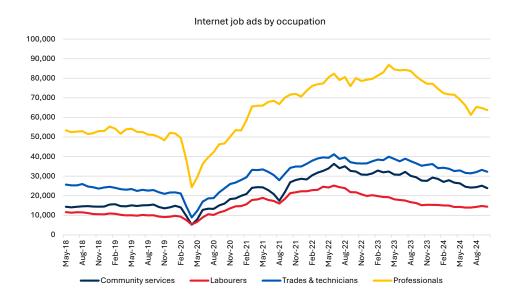
Figure 3: Domestic internet job ads



Source: Jobs & Skills Australia, OML Research

Figure 4: Domestic internet job ads by occupation type

 Professional services has experienced the most extensive declines in job ads during FY25, impacting PPE's technology, financial services and general management franchises.



Source: Jobs & Skills Australia, OML Research



Overview

PeopleIn is a workforce solutions company providing services to over 4,000 clients across the public and private sectors. PeopleIn operates across three business divisions: 1.) Health and Community 2.) Industrial and Specialist Services 3.) Professional Services. Services include sourcing, skilling, deployment, and managing workforce staff across permanent employees and contract hires. Since listing in 2017, PPE has grown its recruitment network to 26 brands, providing payroll for 10,000-15,000 candidates weekly. PeopleIn employs over 850 internal staff and has a national presence.

Key risks

- Changing employment conditions: PPE's core business relies on the ongoing demand for labour. Economic conditions in segments including technology, financial services and industrial services may impact our financial forecasts beyond this earnings revision.
- Regulatory risk: PPE's exposure to unionised and politically sensitive sectors increases the risk of industrial action impacting the company's operations. Changes to government legislation relating to the PALM Scheme may affect the business. However, given the barriers to entry in compliance, panel positions, systems and scale, the more regulated environment may benefit PPE's competitive positioning.
- Margin outlook: PPE's margins are sensitive to economic conditions and the company's ability to manage cost pressures and utilise staff. PPE's normalised EBITDA (incl. SBP) margin improved to 3.3% in 1H25 (from 2.9% in 1H24), however still remain well below FY23 (4.7%).



PeopleIn Limited

PROFIT & LOSS (A\$m)	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
Revenue	1,186.3	1,174.8	1,117.4	1,156.9	1,193.3
Operating costs	(1,130.6)	(1,141.6)	(1,083.6)	(1,121.0)	(1,155.2)
Operating EBITDA	55.8	33.2	33.8	35.9	38.1
D&A	(8.1)	(11.9)	(11.9)	(12.4)	(10.4)
EBIT	47.7	21.3	21.8	23.5	27.7
Net interest	(6.2)	(8.0)	(7.5)	(5.8)	(4.6)
Pre-tax profit	41.6	13.3	14.3	17.7	23.1
Net tax (expense) / benefit	(12.5)	(4.0)	(4.3)	(5.3)	(6.9)
Normalised NPAT	29.1	9.3	10.0	12.4	16.1
Reported NPAT	20.6	5.4	4.4	6.8	15.5
Normalised dil. EPS (cps)	28.9	9.0	9.4	11.4	14.9
Reported EPS (cps)	20.4	5.2	4.1	6.3	14.2
Effective tax rate (%)	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.4
DPS (cps)	14.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
Dividend yield (%)	18.4	3.9	2.6	3.9	5.3
Payout ratio (%)	48.5	33.3	21.3	26.2	26.9
Franking (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Diluted # of shares (m)	103.6	106.7	111.0	111.0	111.0

CASH FLOW (A\$m)	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
EBITDA incl. adjustments	56.5	34.2	33.8	35.9	38.1
Change in working capital	2.5	(18.7)	3.5	(1.5)	0.2
Net Interest (paid)/received	(6.2)	(8.0)	(7.5)	(5.8)	(4.6)
Income tax paid	(9.8)	(7.1)	(1.9)	(2.9)	(6.6)
Other operating items	21.3	(4.0)	-	-	-
Operating Cash Flow	64.4	(3.6)	27.8	25.7	27.0
Capex	(9.1)	(6.3)	(3.6)	(3.7)	(3.8)
Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-
Other investing items	(12.3)	(9.3)	(3.7)	-	-
Investing Cash Flow	(21.1)	(15.0)	(7.3)	(3.7)	(3.8)
Inc/(Dec) in borrowings	(12.9)	31.2	(30.0)	(25.0)	(15.0)
Dividends paid	(4.9)	(9.5)	-	(2.1)	(3.3)
Other financing items	(12.6)	(5.7)	(6.0)	(6.2)	(6.4)
Financing Cash Flow	(30.4)	16.0	(36.0)	(33.3)	(24.6)
Net Inc/(Dec) in Cash	12.9	(2.6)	(15.5)	(11.3)	(1.4)

BALANCE SHEET (A\$m)	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
Cash	39.9	37.3	21.8	10.5	9.1
Receivables	120.3	128.4	120.9	125.2	127.5
Inventory	-	-	-	-	-
Other current assets	3.5	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
PP&E	29.8	26.9	26.8	26.5	26.1
Investments	_	_	-	-	_
Intangibles	203.2	193.7	187.7	177.3	176.5
Other non-current assets	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Assets	396.9	391.3	362.1	344.5	344.2
Short term debt	27.9	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Payables	66.6	54.8	52.0	53.9	55.6
Other current liabilities	45.2	33.8	32.5	33.4	34.3
Long term debt	57.5	104.5	75.1	50.1	35.1
Other non-current liabilities	39.6	26.2	26.0	26.0	26.0
Total Liabilities	236.9	231.3	197.6	175.4	162.9
Total Equity	160.0	160.0	164.4	169.1	181.3
Net debt (cash)	73.2	104.1	90.0	76.3	62.7

Buy

DIVISIONS	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
KEY METRICS (%)	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
Revenue growth	73.9	(1.0)	(4.9)	3.5	3.1
EBITDA growth	27.3	(40.6)	1.8	6.5	5.9
EBIT growth	23.0	(55.5)	2.7	7.8	17.5
Normalised EPS growth	7.0	(68.9)	4.6	21.5	29.9
EBITDA margin	4.7	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.2
EBIT margin	4.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.3
Return on assets	8.8	3.9	4.2	4.8	5.8
Return on equity	19.3	5.8	6.2	7.4	9.2

VALUATION RATIOS (x)	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
Reported P/E	3.7	14.6	18.4	12.2	5.3
Normalised P/E	2.6	8.4	8.1	6.6	5.1
Price To Free Cash Flow	1.8	-	4.4	5.2	4.9
Price To NTA	-	-	-	-	21.7
EV / EBITDA	2.7	5.5	5.1	4.4	3.8
EV / EBIT	3.2	8.6	7.9	6.8	5.3

LEVERAGE	2023A	2024A	2025E	2026E	2027E
ND / (ND + Equity) (%)	31.4	39.4	35.4	31.1	25.7
Net Debt / EBITDA (%)	131.2	313.9	266.7	212.4	164.7
EBIT Interest Cover (x)	7.8	2.7	2.9	4.1	6.0
EBITDA Interest Cover (x)	9.1	4.2	4.5	6.2	8.3

VALUATION	
Cost of Equity (%)	13.9
Cost of debt (after tax) (%)	4.2
D / EV (%)	(15.0)
WACC (%)	12.5
Forecast cash flow (\$m)	37.6
Terminal value (\$m)	92.3
Enterprise Value (\$m)	129.9
Equity NPV Per Share (\$)	1.06
Target Price Method	DCF
Target Price (\$)	1.06
Valuation disc. / (prem.) to share price (%)	39.5



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Guide to Ord Minnett Recommendations

Fixed Interest.

Our recommendations are based on the total return of a stock – nominal dividend yield plus capital appreciation – and have a 12-month time horizon.		
SPECULATIVE BUY	We expect the stock's total return (nominal yield plus capital appreciation) to exceed 20% over 12 months. The investment may have a strong capital appreciation but also has high degree of risk and there is a significant risk of capital loss.	
BUY	The stock's total return (nominal dividend yield plus capital appreciation) is expected to exceed 15% over the next 12 months.	
ACCUMULATE	We expect a total return of between 5% and 15%. Investors should consider adding to holdings or taking a position in the stock on share price weakness.	
HOLD	We expect the stock to return between 0% and 5%, and believe the stock is fairly priced.	
LIGHTEN	We expect the stock's return to be between 0% and negative 15%. Investors should consider decreasing their holdings.	
SELL	We expect the total return to lose 15% or more.	
RISK ASSESSMENT	Classified as Lower, Medium or Higher, the risk assessment denotes the relative assessment of an individual stock's risk based on an appraisal of its disclosed financial information, historical volatility of its share price, nature of its operations and other relevant quantitative and qualitative criteria. Risk is assessed by comparison with other Australian stocks, not across other asset classes such as Cash or	

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