

Friday, 08 December 2023

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Sector

Automobile

Page 2

Weekly: PV sales spike on price cuts; lithium prices fell to two-year lows. Maintain UNDERWEIGHT. Top SELLs: BYD and Ganfeng Lithium.

TRADERS' CORNER

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China Telecom Corporation Ltd. (728 HK): Trading Buy range: HK\$3.48-3.55 Hengan International Group Co. Ltd. (1044 HK): Trading Buy range: HK\$27.00-27.50

CORPORATE AND MACRO CALENDAR

Date	Country/Region	Economic Indicator
09 Dec	China	Nov Inflation
09-15 Dec	China	Nov Money Supply And Credit
15 Dec	China	Nov Economic Activities
20 Dec	China	Dec Loan Prime Rate
27 Dec	China	Nov Industrial Profits
30 Dec	China	Dec NBS PMI

KEY INDICES

	Prev Close	1D %	1W %	1M %	YTD %
DJIA	36117.4	0.2	0.5	5.8	9.0
S&P 500	4585.6	0.8	0.4	4.7	19.4
FTSE 100	7513.7	(0.0)	8.0	1.4	0.8
AS30	7384.7	(0.0)	1.2	2.6	2.3
CSI 300	3391.3	(0.2)	(3.0)	(6.1)	(12.4)
FSSTI	3074.3	(0.4)	0.0	(1.8)	(5.4)
HSCEI	5615.8	(8.0)	(4.1)	(7.0)	(16.2)
HSI	16345.9	(0.7)	(4.1)	(7.0)	(17.4)
JCI	7134.6	0.7	8.0	4.9	4.1
KLCI	1442.9	(0.2)	(0.7)	(1.0)	(3.5)
KOSPI	2492.1	(0.1)	(1.7)	2.9	11.4
Nikkei 225	32858.3	(1.8)	(1.9)	2.2	25.9
SET	1378.7	(8.0)	(0.6)	(2.3)	(17.4)
TWSE	17278.7	(0.5)	(0.9)	3.2	22.2
BDI	2495	(12.4)	(15.0)	60.0	64.7
CPO (RM/mt)	3577	(2.1)	(3.8)	(1.5)	(11.6)
Brent Crude (US\$/bbl)	74	0.2	(10.1)	(8.8)	(13.4)

Source: Bloomberg

TOP TRADING TURNOVER

Price	Chg	5-day ADT
(HK\$)	(%)	(HK\$m)
29.95	(2.4)	2,643.5
250.80	(2.3)	2,240.6
139.60	(1.4)	2,179.0
14.68	(1.3)	2,054.5
164.50	(0.4)	1,431.4
	(HK\$) 29.95 250.80 139.60 14.68	(HK\$) (%) 29.95 (2.4) 250.80 (2.3) 139.60 (1.4) 14.68 (1.3)

TOP GAINERS

Price	Chg	5-day ADT
(HK\$)	(%)	(HK\$m)
18.08	3.6	80.5
27.85	3.3	89.4
4.87	2.3	32.7
37.70	2.2	190.3
60.45	2.1	112.4
	(HK\$) 18.08 27.85 4.87 37.70	(HK\$) (%) 18.08 3.6 27.85 3.3 4.87 2.3 37.70 2.2

TOP LOSERS

Company	Price (HK\$)	Chg (%)	5-day ADT (HK\$m)
GDS HOLDING-CL A	9.00	(5.1)	35.6
XINYI SOLAR HLDS	4.18	(4.6)	113.5
HANSOH PHARMACEU	14.52	(4.2)	134.3
CSPC PHARMACEUTI	6.60	(3.6)	464.3
CHINA RES CEMENT	1.68	(2.9)	88.7

^{*}ADT: Average daily turnover

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

GDP (% yoy)		2022	2023F	2024F
US		1.9	2.4	1.0
Euro Zone		3.5	0.5	0.6
Japan		0.9	1.5	1.0
Singapore		3.6	0.9	2.9
Malaysia		8.7	4.0	4.6
Thailand		2.6	2.3	3.6
Indonesia		5.3	5.1	5.2
Hong Kong		-3.5	4.6	3.0
China		3.0	5.0	4.6
CPO	(RM/mt)	5,088	4,000	4,200
Brent (Average)	(US\$/bbl)	99.0	81.0	84.0
Source: Pleambare	IIOD ETD	HOD Kay Hian		

Source: Bloomberg, UOB ETR, UOB Kay Hian



Friday, 08 December 2023

SECTOR UPDATE

Automobile - China

Weekly: PV Sales Spike On Price Cuts; Lithium Prices Fall To Two-year Lows

Daily average PV retail sales volume surged 45-46% yoy/mom during 27-30 Nov 23 on price cuts. PEVs' market share plunged 6.1ppt wow to a recent low of 32.7% during the period. Despite price cuts and the debuts of Yuan Plus Champion Version and Bao 5, BYD's retail sales volume rebounded to only 58,300 units in the week ending 3 Dec 23, still 11% off the peak and much lower than wholesale shipment. Maintain UNDERWEIGHT. Top SELLs: BYD and Ganfeng Lithium.

WHAT'S NEW

- CPCA: Daily average PV retail sales volume surged 45-46% yoy/mom during 27-30 Nov 23 on price cuts. On a weekly basis, daily average retail sales volume of PVs surged 184% wow during 27-30 Nov 23. This brings Nov 23 passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales volume to 2.062m units (+25% yoy/+1% mom).
- PEV market share flattened in Nov 23. Retail sales volume of passenger electric vehicle (PEV) increased 2% mom to 783,000 units in Nov 23. PEV share in China's PV retail sales edged up 1.5ppt yoy/0.4ppt mom to 38% in Nov 23. On a weekly basis, PEV market share plummeted by 6.1ppt wow to a recent low of 32.7% in 27-30 Nov 23.
- **PEV inventories piling up in channel, especially BYD.** PEV wholesale shipment grew 7% mom to 945,000 units in Nov 23, outstripping the retail sales volume by 162,000 units. This gap cannot be fully matched by the expected export volume of 110,000-120,000 units, implying an increase of 40,000-50,000 units of inventory. These 40,000-50,000 units in additional inventory were primarily accumulated at BYD's dealers.
- Top EV companies in China generally posted positive mom sales growth in Nov 23. Among the 15 brands, Tesla, Changan and Aito were the outperformers, while BYD, XPeng, Nio and Zeekr continued to underperform.
- BYD's insurance registrations rebounded 19.7% mom and 18.3% wow to 58,300 units in 27 Nov-3 Dec 23 on price cuts. Despite the 5-10% price cuts announced on 24 Nov 23 and the kick-start of the deliveries of Yuan Plus Champion Version and Bao 5 on 10 Nov 23 and 24 Nov 23 respectively, BYD's insurance registration in the week ending 3 Dec 23 was still 11% off the peak of 65,500 units in the week ending 1 Oct 23. During 6 Nov-3 Dec 23, BYD's insurance registration remained flat mom at 212,900 units, much lower than wholesale shipment. Bao 5 sold only 626 units from 24-30 Nov 23, missing expectations.

UNDERWEIGHT

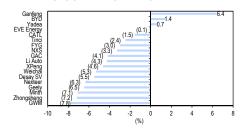
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TOP PICKS

Company	Ticker	Rec	Share Price (HK\$)	Target Price (HK\$)
BYD	1211 HK	SELL	213.00	140.00
Ganfeng Lithium	1772 HK	SELL	26.60	20.00

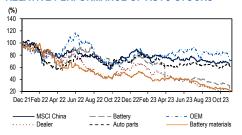
Source: UOB Kay Hian

WEEKLY STOCK PERFORMANCE



Source: Bloomberg

RELATIVE PERFORMANCE OF AUTO STOCKS



Source: Bloomberg

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PEER COMPARISON

Company	Ticker	Rec	Price @	Target	Upside/(Downside)	Market	P	E	Р	/B	ROE	Net Gearing
			30 Nov 23 (lcy)	Price (lcy)	to TP (%)	Cap (US\$m)	2023F (x)	2024F (x)	2023F (x)	2024F (x)	2024F (%)	(Cash) (%)
BYD	1211 HK	SELL	213.00	140.00	(34.3)	618,900	18.5	19.9	4.1	3.5	17.5	(25.3)
Geely Automobile	175 HK	SELL	7.96	6.00	(24.6)	79,747	18.8	19.7	0.9	0.9	4.6	(26.9)
Great Wall Motors	2333 HK	BUY	10.38	13.50	30.1	90,976	13.3	9.2	1.1	1.0	11.5	(0.4)
Guangzhou Auto	2238 HK	SELL	3.47	3.20	(7.8)	36,036	7.1	8.6	0.3	0.3	3.3	(14.9)
Li Auto Inc	2015 HK	BUY	139.60	190.00	36.1	291,007	30.4	18.1	4.9	3.9	17.7	(103.0)
XPeng	9868 HK	SELL	64.10	18.00	(71.9)	110,598	Loss	Loss	4.2	6.3	(43.3)	(58.3)
Weichai Power	2338 HK	BUY	13.60	17.00	25.0	117,494	12.0	10.3	1.3	1.2	`11.7 [′]	(57.1)
Fuyao Glass	3606 HK	BUY	35.55	45.00	26.6	92,776	15.0	13.0	2.7	2.5	17.7	(18.3)
Desay SV	002920 CH	HOLD	122.70	135.00	10.0	68,132	46.5	35.3	8.9	7.5	20.8	0.5
Nexteer	1316 HK	SELL	4.72	2.70	(42.8)	11,846	14.3	15.6	0.7	0.7	5.4	(10.1)
Minth	425 HK	BUY	15.72	33.00	109.9	18,264	8.4	7.0	0.9	0.8	11.0	`17.9 [′]
Ningbo Tuopu	601689 CH	BUY	70.62	105.00	48.7	77,827	36.6	22.5	4.6	3.9	14.9	6.7
Ningbo Xusheng	603305 CH	HOLD	20.04	18.00	(10.2)	13,358	25.4	22.1	3.0	2.7	12.4	(9.9)
CATL	300750 CH	BUY	164.49	250.00	52.0	400,587	19.3	15.2	3.7	3.1	20.9	(46.1)
EVE Energy	300014 CH	SELL	42.13	36.00	(14.6)	85,940	21.0	21.1	2.5	2.3	10.5	`37.2
Ganfeng Lithium	1772 HK	SELL	26.60	20.00	(24.8)	53,594	7.0	13.7	1.0	0.9	10.7	7.1
GEM	002340 CH	SELL	5.57	4.40	(21.0)	28,371	45.3	55.9	1.5	1.5	3.4	53.0
Tinci Materials	002709 CH	SELL	23.61	20.00	(15.3)	45,132	17.0	19.3	3.8	3.6	21.9	2.3
Zhongsheng Group	881 HK	SELL	17.36	14.00	(19.4)	41,865	6.7	7.5	0.8	0.7	13.0	38.8
Yadea Group	1585 HK	BUY	14.76	20.00	35.5	44,206	16.0	13.6	5.0	4.1	33.3	(139.1)

Source: Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian



Daily Greater China

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According to channel checks, BYD's channel inventory-to-sales ratio reached 2.5-3 months CHINA WEEKLY PV SALES VOLUME (NOV 23) as of 30 Nov 23. As such, BYD extended the promotion from 30 Nov 23 to Dec 23, and further cut prices. Qin Plus DM-i Champion Version, for example, is selling at nearly Rmb80,000 in some regions, 11% below the latest MSRP of Rmb89,800 announced on 24 Nov 23 and 20% below the initial MSRP of Rmb99,800 set upon the debut of the model in Feb 23. Assuming a subsidy of Rmb5,000/vehicle for dealers in Dec 23, BYD would need to incur Rmb1.5b in additional sales and marketing expense in 4Q23.

- Tesla's insurance registrations grew 4.2% wow to a 14-week high of 17,400 units during the week ending 3 Dec 23, only 7% lower than the record of 18,700 units. Tesla China raised prices for the new Model Y/3 four times recently, and orders remained strong.
- Li Auto's insurance registrations rebounded 2.1% wow to 9,600 units in the week ending 3 Dec 23. Li Auto's weekly insurance registrations have hovered around 10,000 units since the week ending 15 Oct 23. On the other hand, Aito's insurance registration spiked from 2,400 units in the week ending 15 Oct 23 to a recent peak of 5,600 units in the week ending 3 Dec 23 (+40% mom/+19% wow). Aito's new model M7 should have taken some market share from Li L7 and other peers. Going forward, further sales growth of Li Auto will hinge on the upcoming new models in 2024, including the company's first battery electric vehicle (BEV) models Mega MPV and L6.
- XPeng's insurance registration rebounded 6.8% wow to 4,700 units during the week ending 3 Dec 23. During 6 Nov-3 Dec 23, XPeng's insurance registration tumbled by 6.5% mom to 17,200 units, missing estimates. We remain pessimistic on XPeng's earnings outlook, based on the weakening sales momentum, negative gross margin and aggressive price cuts. Additionally, XPeng's brand equity has been tarnished by its failure to deliver on its promise of providing Navigation Guided Pilot (NGP) for the old models and the unsatisfactory results in the recent Autonomous Emergence Braking (AEB) test conducted by Dongchedi.
- Zeekr's insurance registration rebounded 31.8% wow to 2,900 units, but still down 27.5% mom. During 6 Nov-3 Dec 23, Zeekr's insurance registration declined by 8.7% mom to 9,500 units. This can be attributed to the drop in sales of the flagship model Zeekr 001 under the increasing competition from Aito M7 and the disappointing sales of the new models Zeekr 009 and Zeekr X. Zeekr is under pressure to attain its full-year 2023 sales target of 140,000 units. Geely is planning to spin off Zeekr for listing in the US by Feb 24, and has denied reports that this IPO plan for Zeekr has been suspended.
- The Shanghai-traded lithium carbonate future expiring in Jan 24 dropped below Rmb100,000/tonne on 4 Dec 23. This week, both the spot price of lithium carbonate in China and the CIF price of imported spodumene concentrate also dropped by 8% wow to two-year lows of Rmb121,000/tonne and US\$1,650/tonne respectively on 6 Dec 23. Lithium carbonate price and imported spodumene concentrate price have plummeted by 23%/20% over the past month and 77%/70% ytd, due to the slowdown in EV battery production volume and increasing oversupply.

The drop in lithium carbonate prices hammers the margins of lithium carbonate producers like Ganfeng Lithium and Tinci Lithium, while saving cost for EV companies. However, given that lithium carbonate prices have fallen to low levels, the marginal benefit from further drops in lithium carbonate price is getting lesser. Given that 30kg of lithium carbonate is used in a 60kWh battery for a battery electric vehicle (BEV), the drop in lithium carbonate price from Rmb500,000/tonne at end-22 to Rmb100,000/tonne in Jan 24 would save Rmb12,000/vehicle in cost. However, the drop in lithium carbonate price from Rmb100,000/tonne to zero (which is impossible) would only save Rmb3,000/vehicle in cost.

ACTION

 Maintain UNDERWEIGHT on China's automobile sector, based on the expected decline in China's ICE-car sales, slowdown in EV sales and intensifying price war. We expect growth in China's EV sales volume to slow from over 30% in 2023 to 17% in 2024, based on the high comparison base and rollback of stimulus. OEMs will face looming margin pressure in 2024, due to stiffening price competition, falling capacity utilisation and less room for cost reduction from a further drop in lithium carbonate prices. Our top SELLs are BYD and Ganfeng Lithium.

	R	etail sa	les	Wholesale shipment			
('000 units)	Total	PEV	ICE-car	Total	PEV	ICE-car	
Daily average							
1-12 Nov 23	45	19	26	48	20	28	
13-19 Nov 23	62	26	37	69	28	41	
20-26 Nov 23	59	23	36	76	34	42	
27-30 Nov 23	168	55	113	244	67	178	
yoy % chg	46	23	60	43	5	65	
mom % chg	45	36	51	40	30	44	
wow % chg	184	139	212	221	94	326	
Total							
Nov 23	2,062	783	1,279	2,572	945	1,627	
yoy % chg	25	30	22	27	29	26	
mom % chg	1	2	0	5	7	4	
Courses CDCA							

Source: CPCA

MONTHLY SALES VOLUME BY BRAND

		yoy %	mom		yoy %
(units)	Nov 23	chg	% chg	11M23	chg
BYD	301,903	31.0	0.0	2,683,374	64.3
GAC	227,124	19.3	1.2	2,244,036	0.7
- EV	50,231	48.9	7.4	490,758	80.3
- Aion	41,567	44.5	0.2	433,934	81.4
Geely	200,079	37.9	10.7	1,536,062	19.4
- EV	65,034	87.7	4.7	427,014	50.3
- Zeekr	13,104	19.0	0.2	105,209	73.6
- Galaxy	13,770	n.a.	0.4	71,409	n.a.
Great Wall Motor	122,849	40.3	(6.4)	1,118,028	12.9
- EV	31,248	142.9	2.3	232,015	92.2
- Ora	10,025	47.9	(7.4)	98,492	1.5
Li Auto	41,030	172.9	1.5	325,677	190.7
XPeng	20,041	244.9	0.2	121,486	11.0
Aito	18,827	127.9	48.2	n.a.	n.a.
Leapmotor	18,508	130.0	1.7	125,492	22.2
Nio	15,959	12.6	(0.7)	142,026	33.1

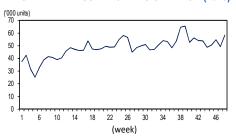
Note: The sales figures of BYD, GAC, Geely and GWM refer to the wholesale shipment; while those of the others refer to retail sales volume Source: cnevpost.com, Dongchedi

WEEKLY INSURANCE REGISTRATIONS BY BRAND

	27 Nov	mom %	wow %	6 Nov	mom %
	3 Dec	chg	chg	3 Dec	chg
BYD (excl Denza)	54.8	17.3	16.3	203.6	(0.4)
Denza	3.5	75.0	59.1	9.3	9.4
BYD (incl Denza)	58.3	19.7	18.3	212.9	(0.0)
Tesla	17.4	24.3	4.2	62.9	55.3
Wuling	12.4	37.8	7.8	47.9	28.4
Aion	9.7	6.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Changan	9.5	53.2	(1.0)	31.0	64.9
Li Auto	9.6	11.6	2.1	39.0	1.8
VW	6.7	17.5	19.6	22.5	(0.4)
Aito	5.6	40.0	19.1	18.3	39.7
XPeng	4.7	-	6.8	17.2	(6.5)
Leapmotor	4.3	-	4.9	16.9	11.9
Nio	3.7	(11.9)	12.1	13.6	(18.6)
Neta	3.1	40.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Deepal	2.9	-	(9.4)	12.8	(5.2)
Zeekr	2.9	(27.5)	31.8	9.5	(8.7)

Source: cnevpost.com, Dongchedi

BYD'S WEEKLY INSURANCE REGISTRATION (2023)



Source: cnevpost.com, Dongchedi



Daily Greater China

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- We have a contrarian SELL call on BYD (1211 HK/SELL/Target: HK\$140.00) on the LITHIUM CARBONATE PRICE AND SPODUMENE back of peaking retail sales volume, mounting inventory pressure, falling capacity utilisation rate and further price cuts. Its 4Q23 earnings will probably disappoint the market, as the company is slashing prices to clear inventories. Going into 2024, the upcoming destocking will likely drag on wholesale shipments in 1H24, taking the market by surprise. Our target price of HK\$140.00 is based on our 10-year DCF (WACC: 19.6%/terminal growth: 4%).
- Maintain SELL on Ganfeng Lithium (1772 HK/SELL/Target: HK\$20.00), based on the cyclical downturn of lithium carbonate prices over the next 1-2 years.
- Our BUY calls are in the following order of preference: CATL, Li Auto, Ningbo Tuopu, Source: oilchem.net Great Wall Motor, Fuyao Glass, Minth, Weichai Power, Yadea.

CONCENTRATE PRICE (CIF)



Friday, 08 December 2023

TRADERS' CORNER



36.00 34.00 31.406 30.00 31.406 30.00 30.00 20.0

China Telecom Corporation Ltd. (728 HK)

Trading Buy range: HK\$3.48-3.55

Last price: HK\$3.57

Target price: HK\$3.68/HK\$3.76 Protective stop: Breaks below HK\$3.38

Stock Highlights:

According to Tianyancha, the group has established China Telecom Digital Governance Technology Company Limited, which engages in businesses such as software development, big data services, basic software development for artificial intelligence, cloud computing equipment technology services, network technology services, electronic products sales, and network connection services.

Technical View:

Share price formed a double-bottom pattern in November and then rebounded. It has risen to near its 10-day (light blue) and 20-day (orange) moving averages, but is currently restricted by its 50-day moving average (red). The 14-day RSI rebounded from the oversold zone (below 30) to the midline level at 50. The MACD line is higher than the signal line, showing a bullish crossover. If it breaks above its 50-day moving average, it may continue to rebound.

Average timeframe: Around two weeks.

Hengan International Group Co. Ltd. (1044 HK)

Trading Buy range: HK\$27.00-27.50

Last price: HK\$27.55

Target price: HK\$28.50/HK\$29.00 Protective stop: Breaks below HK\$26.30

Stock Highlights:

In 1H23, the group's revenue increased 9.0% yoy to

Rmb12.2b.

Technical View:

Share price formed a double-bottom pattern in Oct 23, and then rebounded from mid-November. It is now near its 10-day (light blue) and 20-day (orange) moving averages, and is higher than its 50-day moving average (red). The 14-day RSI rebounded from the oversold zone (below 30) to the overbought zone (above 70), showing a strong trend. It has now retreated to around 49. Although the MACD line is slightly lower than the signal line, both lines are in the bullish zone. Hence, the uptrend of share price remains unchanged. If share price breaks above its 10-day moving average, it may extend its uptrend.

Average timeframe: Around two weeks.

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