

Monday, 25 July 2022

#### **SECTOR UPDATE**

## Consumer - China

Focusing On Sector Growth Trend And Companies' Competitive Advantages

We reckon that the overall situation of the pandemic has not worsened materially in the last week. We think the pandemic would likely exert a weakening negative impact on investment sentiment in the future months, and thus we suggest focusing more on the sustainable sector growth trend and companies' core competitive advantages. Maintain OVERWEIGHT on China's consumer sector.

#### WHAT'S NEW

Duty-free (maintain OVERWEIGHT). In the last week, Haikou Meilan Airport's estimated passenger throughput per day increased from a low of about 17,500 on 18 July to about 30,000 on 23 July, and further recovered to about 35,000 on 24 July. The average daily number of flights in Sanya Phoenix Airport rose 2.1% wow. International passenger throughput of Shanghai Pudong Airport rose 43.8% mom in Jun 22.

According to Haikou Customs, Hainan's offshore duty-free sales rebounded 111% and 41% mom to Rmb2.2b/Rmb3.2b in May/Jun 22 respectively. Duty-free shopping visits recovered 83.7%/58.3% mom in May/Jun 22. The yoy decline in offshore duty-free sales narrowed to 11% in Jun 22 from 77.4% in Apr 22, and duty-free shopping visits' yoy drop also narrowed to 27.8% in Jun 22 from 80.3% in Apr 22. In 1H22, offshore duty-free sales/shopping visits dropped 21%/32.8% yoy, and offshore duty-free sales per shopping visit increased 17.7% yoy. Moreover, there were media reports that Hainan's offshore duty-free sales during 25 June to 16 Jul hiked 5.1% yoy, of which offshore duty-free shops in Sanya recorded Rmb2.1b of duty-free sales, representing an 11.4% yoy hike.

In 1H22, China Post (Hainan) delivered a total of 4.8m pieces of duty-free packages, or about 26,000 pieces of packages per day. The media reported that Cambodians will be allowed to buy duty-free goods in the three downtown duty-free shops owned by China Tourism Group Duty-free Corporation in their country starting from 20 Jul 22, with an annual shopping quota of US\$10,000 per person and a floor unit price of US\$50.

On 20 July, Hunan province published "Several Measures On Deeply Promoting The Reforms And Innovations Of Hunan Pilot Free Trade Zone", which mentioned that the government will vigorously encourage domestic and foreign new retail brands to establish their headquarters/regional headquarters in Hunan, and try to establish a downtown duty-free shop in the province.

• Sportswear (maintain OVERWEIGHT). In the last week, prices of cotton and polyester filament yarn (PFY) declined 7.2% and 2.2% wow. 361 Degrees International's retail sales of core brand saw low-teens/mid-teens yoy hike in 2Q22/1H22, and that of kids brand saw 20-25% yoy growth in both 2Q22 and 1H22. Retail sales of e-commerce platform saw 40%/40-45% yoy growths in 2Q22/1H22. Pu Sheng International's sales dipped 14.7% yoy in Jun 22.

## **OVERWEIGHT**

(Maintained)

#### SECTOR PICKS

Company	Ticker	Share Rec Price (Icy)		Target Price (Icy)		
CTGDF	601888 CH	BUY	214.62	278.00		
Li Ning	2331 HK	BUY	66.45	96.00		
Moutai	600519 CH	BUY	1,947.00	2,430.00		
CR Beer	291 HK	BUY	53.40	72.00		

Source: UOB Kay Hian

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#### PEER COMPARISON

Company	Ticker	Rec	Price @	Target	Upside/	Market	P	E	P.	/B	EV/E	BITDA	ROE	Div. yield
			18 Jul 22	Price	(Downside)	Cap	2022F	2023F	2022F	2023F	2022F	2023F	2022F	2022F
			(lcy)	(lcy)	to TP (%)	(US\$m)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
CTGDF	601888 CH	BUY	214.62	278.00	29.5	61,930.5	41.5	28.9	11.4	8.7	23.6	17.8	30.4	0.7
Li Ning	2331 HK	BUY	66.45	96.00	44.5	22,160.6	31.5	25.3	6.3	5.3	19.8	16.3	20.6	0.9
Anta Sports	2020 HK	BUY	91.20	139.00	52.4	31,527.6	25.6	20.0	6.5	5.3	14.3	11.7	27.1	1.4
Shenzhou	2313 HK	BUY	84.30	152.00	80.3	16,143.5	20.4	16.3	3.4	3.0	14.3	11.8	17.6	2.5
Moutai	600519 CH	BUY	1947.00	2430.00	24.8	361,507.8	39.7	34.2	10.9	9.3	25.2	21.8	29.8	1.3
Wuliangye	000858 CH	BUY	185.91	276.00	48.5	106,666.3	26.1	21.8	6.3	5.4	17.7	14.7	25.9	1.9
Fenjiu	600809 CH	BUY	290.80	350.00	20.4	52,446.0	45.9	34.7	17.0	12.7	32.2	24.6	42.9	0.9
CR Beer	291 HK	BUY	53.40	72.00	34.8	22,069.5	35.7	28.8	5.7	5.0	19.1	16.0	16.6	1.1
Tsingtao Brewery	168 HK	HOLD	75.15	79.80	6.2	16,358.6	29.4	24.8	3.7	3.4	18.0	15.1	12.9	1.6
Bud APAC	1876 HK	BUY	22.80	28.80	26.3	38,466.4	33.5	29.6	3.3	3.1	14.7	13.2	10.1	1.3
Foshan Haitian	603288 CH	BUY	84.77	95.10	12.2	58,065.9	54.3	45.9	14.3	12.1	43.1	36.3	28.5	0.9
Jonjee Hi-Tech	600872 CH	HOLD	35.12	28.80	-18.0	4,135.7	38.8	32.4	6.3	5.5	27.4	22.7	17.5	0.8
Haidilao	6862 HK	HOLD	15.86	14.80	-6.7	11,262.0	55.5	30.9	8.5	6.9	27.4	20.8	16.6	0.5
Jiumaojiu	9922 HK	BUY	18.32	20.50	11.9	3,393.1	45.6	28.2	6.7	5.6	19.3	13.3	15.8	0.4

Source: Bloomberg, UOB Kay Hian

Monday, 25 July 2022

• Baijiu (maintain OVERWEIGHT). In the last week, average wholesale prices of boxed/unboxed Feitian Moutai were Rmb3,110/Rmb2,755 per bottle. The average wholesale prices of Wuliangye and Classic Wuliangye were Rmb965 and Rmb1,610 per bottle. The average wholesale prices of Qinghua 20/30 were Rmb360/Rmb815 per bottle. National baijiu price index rose 0.15% in mid-Jul 22 vs in early-Jul 22, of which the price indexes for renowned baijiu/localised baijiu/base liquor changed by +0.08%/-0.13%/+0.81% respectively.

In the last week, i-Moutai app released 0.15m of Moutai products (for subscription) and the overall successful rate of 55m bid entries was 0.27%. As of 23 July, the cumulative sales of the products for subscription in i-Moutai app had reached Rmb5.4b.

According to 2022 Chinese Baijiu consumption trend report, the total number of baijiu companies above designated size had shrunk to 959 as of end-1Q22 from 1,593 at the end of 2015. The six companies (Moutai, Wuliangye, Yanghe, Laojiao, Fenjiu, and Gujinggong) accounted for 55% of the baijiu industry's total profit in 2021, vs 40.8% in 2015. Kweichow Moutai's preliminary revenue/net profit increased 17%/20% yoy in 1H22. It was reported that a buying agent earned Rmb100,000 from Moutai ice cream in less than 20 days. Baijiu production dropped 10% yoy in Jun 22 and rose 0.4% yoy in 1H22.

• Beer (maintain OVERWEIGHT). In the last week, aluminium prices increased 0.8% wow. Prices of corrugated paper and glass dropped 0.8%/1.7% in mid-Jul 22 vs that in early-Jul 22. Imported barley price rose 23.2% yoy and 2.4% mom in Jun 22, and recorded a 23.3% yoy increase in 1H22. Budweiser APAC's craft beer factory in Putian, Fujian (the largest craft beer factory in APAC) has reportedly commenced operations on 21 Jul 22.

According to China Alcoholic Drinks Association, revenue and profit of beer companies above the designated size grew 7.9%/38.4% yoy to Rmb158.5b/Rmb18.7b in 2021. In Jun 22, China's export beer volume/value increased 2.2%/17.3% yoy to 41.4m litres/Rmb195m. The imported beer volume/value decreased 31.9%/25% yoy to 38.6m litre/Rmb346m. In 1H22, China's export beer volume/value increased 6.6%/9.3% yoy to 231.2m litres/Rmb1,012m. Imported beer volume/value decreased 14.4%/8.5% yoy to 226.6m litres/Rmb2,041m.

• Condiment (maintain MARKET WEIGHT). In the last week, prices of sugar and PET declined 0.1%/1.9% wow, and soybean price was flat wow. According to the China Condiment Association, the number of newly registered manufacturing related condiment enterprises reached a new high of 1,045 (+7.5% yoy) in 2Q22. The planned investment in condiment production capacity reached Rmb10b in 1H22, which would bring more than 2m tonnes of capacity in the future. Chnbrand released the 2022 Chinese customers satisfaction index (C-CSI), where Haitian brand entered the top three in the segments of soy sauce (first), vinegar (third), oyster sauce (third) and sauces (second). Moreover, Chubang brand (Jonjee) ranked third in the oyster sauce segment.

Jonjee Hi-Tech (Jonjee) announced that its second largest shareholder, Zhongshan Torch Group, together with its concerted parties, had increased the total equity interests in Jonjee to 12.3% from 11.2%, while the substantial shareholder, Zhongshan Runtian's equity interests in Jonjee decreased to 17.8% as of 19 Jul 22.

• Catering (maintain MARKET WEIGHT). In the last week, the average price of vegetables rose 4.0% wow, and the wholesale prices of beef/lamb/pork recorded -0.3%/-0.6%/-0.6% wow changes. Prices of soybean oil/vegetable oil increased 1.8%/1.8% wow.

Haidilao has reportedly established a new business segment named "community business operation division", which will integrate its internal and external resources to form the "delivery + social group + live stream + online shopping" operating model for each community. In May 22, the community sales business contributed Rmb200m of sales. In Jun 22, the new segment in Beijing/Shanghai saw 481%/582% yoy increases in orders, and 16.1%/23.7% yoy increases in profit.

#### **ESSENTIALS**

• Focusing on sector growth trend and companies' competitive advantages. In the last week, we note that the overall situation of the pandemic has not worsened materially as the number of new COVID-19 cases is under control and containment policies

Monday, 25 July 2022

remained unchanged. We think the pandemic would likely to exert a weakening negative impact on investment sentiment in the future months as the worst has passed. We suggest that investors focus more on the sustainable sector growth trend and companies' core competitive advantages instead of the short-term disruption from the pandemic.

## VALUATION/RECOMMENDATION

• Kweichow Moutai - The most defensive player with potential high growth. The company's strong 1H22 preliminary results backed our view that premium baijiu (especially Moutai products) will be less affected by the pandemic. Amid the uncertain external environment, Kweichow Moutai has shown the highest visibility in the solid earnings growth in the future among peers across the whole consumer sector. Unlike duty-free companies which would see a significant improvement in results when the pandemic comes under control, Kweichow Moutai is an excellent investment target that can deliver stable and robust earnings growth in the mid-to-long term.

## **BAIJIU WHOLESALE PRICES**



Source: Jinri Jiujia, UOB Kay Hiari

## PRICES OF ALUMINIUM AND PET



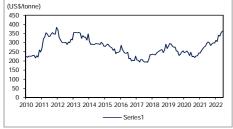
Source: WIND, UOB Kay Hian

## PRICES OF GLASS AND CORRUGATED PAPER



Source: WIND, UOB Kay Hian

## PRICE OF IMPORT BARLEY



Source: China Custom, WIND, UOB Kay Hian

#### PRICES OF SOYBEAN AND SUGAR



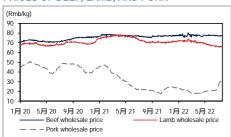
Source: WIND, UOB Kay Hian

## PRICES OF SALT AND VEGETABLES



Source: WIND, UOB Kay Hian

## PRICES OF BEEF, LAMB, AND PORK



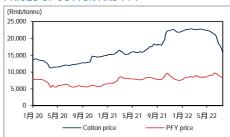
Source: WIND, UOB Kay Hian

# PRICES OF SOYBEAN OIL AND VEGETABLE OIL



Source: WIND, UOB Kay Hian

## PRICES OF COTTON AND PFY

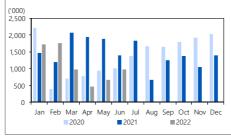


Source: WIND, UOB Kay Hian

# OFFSHORE DUTY-FREE SALES IN HAINAN

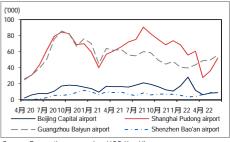


# MEILAN AIRPORT'S PASSENGER THROUGHPUT



Source: Haikou Meilan Airport, UOB Kay Hian

# KEY AIRPORTS' INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER



Source: Respective companies, UOB Kay Hian



Monday, 25 July 2022

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Monday, 25 July 2022

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