Consumer & Retail **Multiline Retail** Equity - China



Sun Art Retail Group (6808 HK)

OW: Results in line; digital channel to drive sales growth

- ▶ Net profit in 2014 grew 4.8% y-o-y, but 4Q was the weakest guarter due to poor prepaid card sales
- Digital channel Feiniu.com and online-to-offline (O2O) business will become significant drivers of sales growth
- ▶ Remain Overweight; lower DCF-based target price of HKD10.5 (old HKD11.3)

2014 results in line. Reported net profit of RMB2,908m was in line with consensus and our estimate. There are two negatives and two positives from the results. The negative surprises were related to poor prepaid card sales. As Sun Art's prepaid card sales declined 23% y-o-y during the mid-autumn festival, its same store sales growth (SSSG) dropped more than 4% in 4Q, the weakest quarter in 2014 (full-year SSSG declined 1.6%). The decline in new prepaid card sales and a late Chinese New Year also led to a 19.6% y-o-y fall in cash inflow from operations. The positive is that the company was still able to expand GPM by 1.3ppts to 22.9% through mix improvement and scale benefit, so OPM remained flat y-o-y at 4.8%. It also maintained a dividend pay-out of 42%, better than our estimate of 35% (lower than 76% in 2013).

Feiniu.com becomes the key growth driver. Sun Art started its e-commerce from January 2014 and achieved sales of RMB150m and active users of 407,607 in 2014. As it expects SSSG in 2015 to be weak, it expects revenue from e-commerce to grow ten times. The momentum will come from 1) the roll-out of Feiniu.com nation-wide from March to April by using existing 372 stores as fulfilment centres; 2) fresh sales added to online from December 2014; and 3) the start of marketplace. It also started its online-to-offline (O2O) trial by using its Zhabei store in Shanghai to deliver fresh products for Feiniu customers. We believe Feiniu can leverage many advantages of Sun Art to grow into a major online retailer, and the newly developed digital capability will enhance the value of its physical stores through improving customer experience and loyalty.

Top-line growth will take priority over bottom line in the medium term. Sun Art's share price underperformed the index over the past 12 months as investors are negative on the hypermarket format. However, Sun Art was able to maintain the profitability of hypermarkets despite the negative SSSG. In our view, this is strong evidence of its execution ability. In the next 3-5 years, it will quickly ramp up the scale of its digital channel, which will negatively impact earnings. We therefore lower 2015e profit by 7% and now look for flat earnings growth in 2015-17. Remain Overweight, and cut our DCFbased target price to HKD10.5 from HKD11.3 due to our earnings revisions for 2015-16e.

Source: HSBC

Index^	HANG SENG INDEX
Index level	24,823
RIC	6808.HK
Bloomberg	6808 HK

48483 Enterprise value (CNYm) Free float (%) 100 Market cap (USDm) 8,561 Market cap (HKDm) 66,396

Overweight

Target price	(HKD)	10.50
Share price	(HKD)	6.96
Potential retu	ırn (%)	50.9

Note: Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price

Dec	2014 a	2015 e	2016 e
HSBC EPS	0.31	0.30	0.32
HSBC PE	18.1	18.5	17.8
Performance	1M	3M	12M
Performance Absolute (%)	1M -0.7	3M -18.2	12M -21.1

Note: (V) = volatile (please see disclosure appendix)

2 March 2015

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Source: HSBC



Financials & valuation

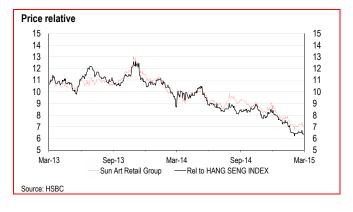
Financial statements				
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e
Profit & loss summary (CN)	(m)			
Revenue	91,855	99,648	109,434	119,496
EBITDA	6,594	6,877	7,365	7,937
Depreciation & amortisation	-2,606	-2,987	-3,300	-3,61
Operating profit/EBIT	3,988	3,890	4,065	4,32
Net interest	291	266	252	24
PBT	4,218	4,155	4,317	4,56
HSBC PBT	4,279	4,155	4,317	4,56
Taxation	-1,176	-1,158	-1,204	-1,27
Net profit	2,908	2,894	3,020	3,20
HSBC net profit	2,969	2,894	3,020	3,203
Cash flow summary (CNYm	1)			
Cash flow from operations	5,892	5,711	7,452	7,972
Capex	-5,750	-4,991	-5,091	-4,41
Cash flow from investment	-4,402	-4,691	-4,798	-4,12
Dividends	-1,387	-1,303	-1,282	-1,35
Change in net debt	1,571	318	-1,331	-2,44
FCF equity	482	1,367	2,761	3,943
Balance sheet summary (C	NYm)			
Intangible fixed assets	139	106	103	100
Tangible fixed assets	30,062	32,337	34,291	35,249
Current assets	21,443	22,232	24,908	28,69
Cash & others	6,380	6,231	7,650	10,18
Total assets	52,443	55,480	60,113	64,86
Operating liabilities	30,911	32,007	34,722	37,45
Gross debt	898	1,067	1,154	1,24
Net debt	-5,482	-5,164	-6,496	-8,93
Shareholders funds	19,673	21,339	23,078	24,92
Invested capital	14,353	16,436	16,930	16,41

Ratio, growth and per share analysis							
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e			
Y-o-y % change							
Revenue EBITDA	6.6 9.1	8.5 4.3	9.8 7.1	9.2 7.8			
Operating profit	4.4	-2.5	4.5	6.3			
PBT HSBC EPS	2.0 6.7	-1.5 -2.5	3.9 4.3	5.7 6.1			
Ratios (%)							
Revenue/IC (x)	7.0	6.5	6.6	7.2			
ROIC ROE	22.8 15.5	19.0 14.1	18.3 13.6	19.4 13.3			
ROA	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.3			
EBITDA margin	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.6			
Operating profit margin EBITDA/net interest (x)	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.6			
Net debt/equity	-26.7	-23.2	-26.9	-34.3			
Net debt/EBITDA (x) CF from operations/net debt	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1			
Per share data (CNY)							
EPS reported (fully diluted) HSBC EPS (fully diluted) DPS	0.30 0.31 0.13	0.30 0.30 0.13	0.32 0.32 0.13	0.34 0.34 0.14			
Book value	2.06	2.24	2.42	2.6			

Key forecast drivers						
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e		
SSSG (%)	-2	-2	-2	-2		
Operating Floor Space Growth (15	14	12	11		
Consolidated Gross Margin (%)	23	24	24	25		
SG&A Cost Ratio (%)	13	14	15	15		
Minority Interests (%)	4	3	3	3		
Effective Tax Rate (%)	28	28	28	28		

Valuation data						
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e		
EV/sales	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4		
EV/EBITDA	7.3	7.1	6.4	5.6		
EV/IC	3.4	2.9	2.8	2.7		
PE*	18.1	18.5	17.8	16.7		
P/Book value	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.2		
FCF yield (%)	0.9	2.5	5.1	7.4		
Dividend yield (%)	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5		

Note: * = Based on HSBC EPS (fully diluted)



Note: price at close of 27 Feb 2015



Digital channel to drive growth

- ▶ In-line results with 2014 net profit growth of 4.8% y-o-y, but 4Q was the weakest quarter due to poor prepaid card sales
- Digital channel Feiniu.com and online-to-offline business will become significant drivers of sales growth
- Remain Overweight with lower DCF-based target price of HKD10.5 (old HKD11.3)

Earnings revision

As the online channel is taking share rapidly from physical stores and inflation remains at low levels in China, we lower our SSSG assumption in 2015 to negative 2% from positive 2% before. More new stores will be opened in 1H 2015 vs. 1H 2014, which would partially offset the weaker SSSG. As a result, we lower our 2015e sales from hypermarkets by 2.6% and look for 7% y-o-y growth in sales revenue.

On the e-commerce side, we expect revenue from Feiniu.com to grow nine times y-o-y to RMB1,507m from RMB150m in 2014.

We therefore revise down our total sales estimate, combining sales from hypermarkets and e-commerce, by 1.1% and now look for 8.5% y-o-y growth in sales in 2015.

We expect the company to continue to expand GPM through better mix and procurement scale, so we expect gross profit to grow 12.3% y-o-y in 2015. However, due to the faster rising, selling and administration costs from investments in e-commerce, we expect the operating profit to be flat y-o-y.

We expect e-commerce to incur total loss of RMB262m in 2015, up from RMB162m in 2014. The attributable loss to Sun Art will be only 65% of that, as 35% of e-commerce is owned by other shareholders. The loss in e-commerce would fully offset profit growth from hypermarkets which we expect to grow in line with sales growth.

As a result of the above changes, we revise down 2015e net profit by 7.4% to RMB2,894m.



Earnings revision summary													
RMBm	2014e	2014 Actual	% diff	у-о-у %	2015e-old	2015e-new	% diff	у-о-у %	2016e-old	2016e-new	% diff	у-о-у %	2017e
Operating revenue	91,887	91,855	0.0%	6.6%	100,729	99,648	-1.1%	8.5%	109,946	109,434	-0.5%	9.8%	119,496
- Hypermarkets	91,887	91,705	-0.2%	!	100,729	98,141	-2.6%	7.0%	109,946	107,457	-2.3%	9.5%	116,863
- Ecomm	0	150				1,507		904.9%		1,977	!	31.1%	2,633
EBIT - Reported	4,357	4,395	0.9%	6.0%	4,640	4,451	-4.1%	1.3%	5,015	4,675	-6.8%	5.0%	4,979
- Hypermarkets	4,453	4,557	2.3%	9.9%	4,795	4,713	-1.7%	3.4%	5,208	4,992	-4.1%	5.9%	5,351
- Ecomm	(96)	(162)	68.8%		(155)	(262)	69.3%	61.8%	(194)	(317)	63.8%	21.1%	(372)
Profit	2,944	2,908	-1.2%	4.8%	3,126	2,894	-7.4%	-0.5%	3,368	3,020	-10.3%	4.3%	3,203
- Hypermarkets	3,006	3,013	0.2%	8.6%	3,226	3,065	-5.0%	1.7%	3,493	3,226	-7.6%	5.3%	3,445
- Ecomm	(62)	(105)	68.8%		(101)	(170)	69.3%	61.8%	(126)	(206)	63.8%	21.1%	(242)
Revenue	91,887	91,855	0.0%	6.6%	100,729	99,648	-1.1%	8.5%	109,946	109,434	-0.5%	9.8%	119,496
Operating revenue	92,264	92,218	-0.1%	6.6%	101,142	100,042	-1.1%	8.5%	110,397	109,854	-0.5%	9.8%	119,942
- Merchandise sales	89,181	88,986	-0.2%	6.0%	97,593	95,042	-2.6%	6.8%	106,371	103,918	-2.3%	9.3%	112,884
- Rental income	2,707	2,719	0.5%	21.5%	3,135	3,099	-1.2%	14.0%	3,575	3,539	-1.0%	14.2%	3,979
- Other OP revenue	377	363	-3.7%	15.6%	413	394	-4.7%	8.5%	451	420	-6.9%	6.6%	446
Gross profit	20,963	20,998	0.2%	12.8%	23,685	23,577	-0.5%	12.3%	26,622	26,330	-1.1%	11.7%	29,408
Total operating expenses	17,382	17,373	-0.1%	15.0%	19,828	20,081	1.3%	15.6%	22,418	22,684	1.2%	13.0%	25,532
EBIT - HSBC	4,054	4,150	2.4%	8.6%	4,425	4,151	-6.2%	0.0%	4,849	4,382	-9.6%	5.6%	4,694
EBIT - Reported	4,357	4,395	0.9%	6.0%	4,640	4,451	-4.1%	1.3%	5,015	4,675	-6.8%	5.0%	4,979
Net finance costs	295	291	-1.2%	-9.3%	215	266	23.4%	-8.8%	166	252	52.1%	-5.1%	241
PBT	4,247	4,218	-0.7%	2.0%	4,486	4,155	-7.4%	-1.5%	4,821	4,317	-10.5%	3.9%	4,563
Minority	(130)	(134)	2.7%	-19.8%	(122)	(102)	-16.1%	-23.7%	(123)	(93)	-24.2%	-8.9%	(88)
Net profit	2,944	2,908	-1.2%	4.8%	3,126	2,894	-7.4%	-0.5%	3,368	3,020	-10.3%	4.3%	3,203
Key drivers:													
SSSG	0.0%	-1.6%	-1.6%	-3.6%	2.0%	-2.0%	-4.0%		2.0%	-2.0%	-4.0%		-2.0%
The number of new stores	53	49	-400.0%	-100.0%	55	55	0.0%		55	55	0.0%		55
Staff costs to Op Rev ratio	8.0%	7.9%	0.0%	0.7%	8.5%	8.5%	-0.1%		9.1%	8.9%	-0.2%		9.3%
Rental costs to Op Rev ratio	2.6%	2.5%	0.0%	0.2%	2.5%	2.7%	0.2%		2.5%	2.8%	0.3%		2.9%
Minority interest	4.2%	4.4%	0.2%	-1.3%	3.8%	3.4%	-0.3%		3.5%	3.0%	-0.5%		2.7%
Key ratios:													
Gross margin	22.8%	22.9%	0.0%	1.3%	23.5%	23.7%	0.1%		24.2%	24.1%	-0.2%		24.6%
Operating margin - HSBC	4.4%	4.5%	0.1%	0.1%	4.4%	4.2%	-0.2%		4.4%	4.0%	-0.4%		3.9%
Operating margin - Reported	4.7%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%	4.5%	-0.1%		4.6%	4.3%	-0.3%		4.2%
Net margin	3.2%	3.2%	0.0%	-0.1%	3.1%	2.9%	-0.2%		3.1%	2.8%	-0.3%		2.7%

Source: Company data, HSBC estimates

Valuation and risks

Our DCF approach combines our earnings model and EBITDA estimates with assumptions on depreciation, working capital, taxes and debt levels. We explicitly estimate minority interest EBITDA and then exclude consolidated operating earnings. We model cash flows and EBITDA explicitly up to 2017e, after which we build in semi-explicit cash flow estimates running off a sales growth assumption and a profitability metric through to 2025e. After this stage, we move to a terminal valuation phase. Our DCF assumptions are a beta of 1.0, a 6.5% China equity risk premium and a 3% terminal growth rate, while Sun Art has a 6% cost of debt and a target 5:95 debt-to-equity ratio, yielding a weighted cost of capital of 9.3%. Based on these assumptions and our revised earnings estimates, our new target price is HKD10.5 (previously HKD11.3).

Under our research model, for stocks without a volatility indicator, the Neutral band is 5ppts above and below the hurdle rate for Hong Kong stocks of 8.5%. Our target price implies a potential return of 51%, above the Neutral band; therefore, we reiterate our Overweight rating. Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, including the forecast dividend yield when indicated.

Downside risks: Lower-than-expected inflation; slower-than-expected SSSG; greater-than-expected losses from e-commerce. **Catalysts**: Pick-up in sales momentum after the roll-out of its O2O business nationwide in March 2015.



Disclosure appendix

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Our ratings are re-calibrated against these bands at the time of any 'material change' (initiation of coverage, change of volatility status or change in price target). Notwithstanding this, and although ratings are subject to ongoing management review, expected returns will be permitted to move outside the bands as a result of normal share price fluctuations without necessarily triggering a rating change.



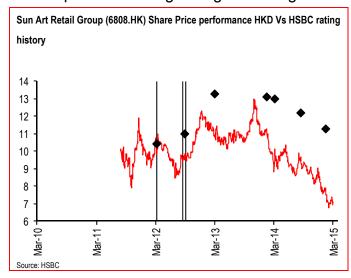
*A stock will be classified as volatile if its historical volatility has exceeded 40%, if the stock has been listed for less than 12 months (unless it is in an industry or sector where volatility is low) or if the analyst expects significant volatility. However, stocks which we do not consider volatile may in fact also behave in such a way. Historical volatility is defined as the past month's average of the daily 365-day moving average volatilities. In order to avoid misleadingly frequent changes in rating, however, volatility has to move 2.5 percentage points past the 40% benchmark in either direction for a stock's status to change.

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As of 02 March 2015, the distribution of all ratings published is as follows:

Overweight (Buy)	42%	(30% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Neutral (Hold)	39%	(28% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Underweight (Sell)	19%	(20% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)

Share price and rating changes for long-term investment opportunities



Recommendation & price target history					
From	То	Date			
Overweight (V)	Neutral (V)	05 March 2012			
Neutral (V)	Neutral	13 August 2012			
Neutral	Overweight	28 August 2012			
Target Price	Value	Date			
Price 1	10.40	05 March 2012			
Price 2	11.00	28 August 2012			
Price 3	13.30	26 February 2013			
Price 4	13.10	13 January 2014			
Price 5	13.00	03 March 2014			
Price 6	12.20	14 August 2014			
Price 7	11.30	12 January 2015			

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- 2 All market data included in this report are dated as at close 27 February 2015, unless otherwise indicated in the report.
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