

#### Rating Hold

Asia Hong Kong

Consumer

Retail / Wholesale Trade

#### Company Giordano

Reuters Bloomberg 0709.HK 709 HK Exchange Ticker HKG 0709

## 3 March 2015 Company Update

Date

Price at 3 Mar 2015 (HKD)	3.74
Price target - 12mth (HKD)	3.87
52-week range (HKD)	5.35 - 3.37
HANG SENG INDEX	24,887

#### Anne Ling

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Key changes			
Price target	3.83 to 3.87	1	1.0%
Sales (FYE)	5,805 to 5,661	Ţ	-2.5%
Op prof margin (FYE)	9.2 to 9.6	1	4.1%
Net profit (FYE)	448.8 to 443.4	ļ	-1.2%

## Source: Deutsche Bank Price/price relative



Performance (%)	1m	3m	12m
Absolute	1.6	1.1	-27.1
HANG SENG INDEX	1.4	6.2	10.6
Source: Deutsche Bank			

# FY15 - operating environment remains 'volatile'; maintaining Hold

#### Revising target price to HK\$3.87; maintaining Hold

2014 net profit and sales were in line with Deutsche Bank forecasts and market consensus. Management sees SSSG in the mid-single digits, with flat yoy global brand sales for January/February 2015, thanks to better execution with the right merchandise, as well as a low base in 1Q14. That said, the operating environment remains volatile. Management is focusing on stabilisation in China, better merchandising with 'easy to wear' products and a GPM improvement in 2015. We lower 2015/16E NP by 1.2%/6.5% and introduce our FY2017 forecasts. Maintaining Hold.

Jan/Feb 2015 SSSG grew by mid-single digits, with flat yoy global brand sales

Double-digit SSSG was achieved in China, HK, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand, while markets such as UAE and S. Korea saw double-digit declines. Management commented that the good performance was due partly to better performances in markets such as Greater China and Singapore, with improved product mixes, and partly to a low base.

#### 2015: China stabilisation, GPM improvement, savings from store closures

For 2015, management guides for China stabilisation, a GPM improvement and HK\$20-40m store closure savings. Its operating outlook remains "volatile". On the one hand, it saw a strong start in markets like China, with positive SSSG since 2Q14, despite a low base, and SEA markets, including Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand, saw strong 4Q14 recovery. On the other hand, China franchisees are still reluctant to open new stores, demand in HK and Korea remains weak, and macro weakness clouds Singapore, Malaysia and ME. Also, while there could be some savings from the lower cotton price, part of this might still be offset by SEA currency weakness (but not as severe as in 1H14).

#### Strong dividend yield still apparent; TP down to HK\$3.87, from HK\$3.83; risks

Our DCF-based target price (TP) assumes 7.6% WACC and 7.6% COE for Hong Kong, based on a 1.0 beta, within the range (1-1.3) we use to value the sector. Our TGR is 1%. Our TP is supported by an estimated 7.0% yield, implying 13.8x FY15E PE. Downside risks: competition; weak SSSG. Upside risks: margin expansion; higher dividend payout.

Forecasts And Ratios					
Year End Dec 31	2013A	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E
Reported NPAT (HKDm)	663.0	408.0	443.4	488.4	527.4
Reported EPS FD(HKD)	0.42	0.26	0.28	0.30	0.33
OLD DB EPS FD(HKD)	0.42	0.25	0.28	0.32	_
% Change	-0.0%	4.1%	0.2%	-6.5%	_
DB EPS growth (%)	-20.0	-37.9	6.2	8.6	8.0
PER (x)	17.5	17.6	13.4	12.3	11.4
DPS (net) (HKD)	0.40	0.25	0.27	0.30	0.32
Yield (net) (%)	5.4	5.4	7.3	8.0	8.6

DB EPS is fully diluted and excludes non-recurring items

#### Deutsche Bank AG/Hong Kong

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Multiples and yields calculations use average historical prices for past years and spot prices for current and future years, except P/B which uses the year end close



Model updated:03 Ma	arch 2015
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Running the numbers	
Asia	
Hong Kong	
Retail / Wholesale Trade	

#### Giordano

Reuters: 0709.HK Bloomberg: 709 HK

### Hold

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Price (3 Mar 15)	HKD 3.74
Target Price	HKD 3.87
52 Week range	HKD 3.37 - 5.35
Market Cap (m)	HKDm 5,773
	USDm 744

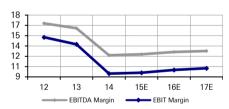
#### Company Profile

Giordano International Limited, through its subsidiaries, retails and distributes casual apparel and accessories under the Giordano Ladies, Giordano Junior and Bluestar Exchange brands. The group also manufactures apparel and supplies products to third parties.

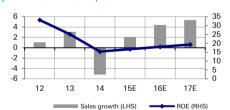
#### Price Performance



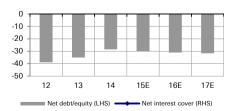
#### Margin Trends



#### Growth & Profitability



#### Solvency



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Fiscal year end 31-Dec	2012	2013	2014	2015E	2016E	2017E
Financial Summary						
DB EPS (HKD)	0.53	0.42	0.26	0.28	0.30	0.33
Reported EPS (HKD)	0.53	0.42	0.26	0.28	0.30	0.33
DPS (HKD)	0.40	0.40	0.25	0.27	0.30	0.32
BVPS (HKD)	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Weighted average shares (m)	1,535	1,557	1,569	1,570	1,570	1,570
Average market cap (HKDm)	9,546	11,606	7,281	5,773	5,773	5,773
Enterprise value (HKDm)	8,475	10,218	6,107	4,524	4,466	4,414
Valuation Metrics						
P/E (DB) (x)	11.7	17.5	17.6	13.4	12.3	11.4
P/E (Reported) (x)	11.7	17.5	17.6	13.4	12.3	11.4
P/BV (x)	4.43	3.99	2.01	2.17	2.16	2.14
FCF Yield (%) Dividend Yield (%)	9.1 6.4	5.4 5.4	4.6 5.4	8.3 7.3	8.4 8.0	9.0 8.6
• •	1.5	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.7
EV/Sales (x) EV/EBITDA (x)	8.9	10.9	9.1	6.5	6.0	5.5
EV/EBIT (x)	10.1	12.7	11.6	8.3	7.5	6.9
				0.0	7.0	0.0
Income Statement (HKDm)						
Sales revenue	5,673	5,848	5,545	5,661	5,911	6,228
Gross profit	3,331	3,551	3,214	3,313	3,471	3,666
EBITDA Depreciation	953 115	941 137	674 148	696 152	747 155	795 157
Amortisation	0	0	0	0	0	0
EBIT	838	804	526	544	592	639
Net interest income(expense)	22	20	15	16	17	18
Associates/affiliates	106	79	55	55	60	66
Exceptionals/extraordinaries	143	0	0	0	0	0
Other pre-tax income/(expense)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Profit before tax	1,109	903	596	614	669	722
Income tax expense	221	173	130	123	130	141
Minorities	62	67	58	48	50	54
Other post-tax income/(expense)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	826	663	408	443	488	527
DB adjustments (including dilution) DB Net profit	0 826	6 669	6 414	6 450	0 488	0 527
Cash Flow (HKDm)						
	050	770	400	000	040	0.40
Cash flow from operations Net Capex	858 13	779 -150	480 -144	608 -120	612 -120	646 -120
Free cash flow	871	629	336	488	492	526
Equity raised/(bought back)	90	98	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	-602	-768	-541	-420	-445	-486
Net inc/(dec) in borrowings	378	-7	0	0	0	0
Other investing/financing cash flows	-376	-18	12	0	0	0
Net cash flow	361	-66	-193	69	47	41
Change in working capital	64	-55	-33	-13	-29	-36
Balance Sheet (HKDm)						
Cash and other liquid assets	1,512	1,440	915	984	1,031	1,071
Tangible fixed assets	267	284	281	249	214	177
Goodwill/intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Associates/investments	537	535	535	590	650	717
Other assets	2,286	2,210	2,126	2,149	2,198	2,261
Total assets	4,602	4,469	3,857	3,971	4,093	4,226
Interest bearing debt	441 1,406	434	102	102	102 1,000	102
Other liabilities Total liabilities	1,406	1,162 1,596	899 1,001	948 1,050	1,000	1,057 1,159
Shareholders' equity	2,599	2,720	2,682	2,700	2,719	2,740
Minorities	156	153	174	2,700	2,713	326
Total shareholders' equity	2,755	2,873	2,856	2,922	2,991	3,067
Net debt	-1,071	-1,006	-813	-882	-929	-969
Key Company Metrics						
Sales growth (%)	1.1	3.1	-5.2	2.1	4.4	5.4
DB EPS growth (%)	11.5	-20.0	-37.9	6.2	8.6	8.0
EBITDA Margin (%)	16.8	16.1	12.2	12.3	12.6	12.8
EBIT Margin (%)	14.8	13.7	9.5	9.6	10.0	10.3
Payout ratio (%)	73.9	93.8	96.3	96.0	96.0	96.0
ROE (%)	33.1	25.2	15.3	16.7	18.0	19.3
Capex/sales (%)	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.9
Capex/depreciation (x)	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	8.0
Net debt/equity (%)	-38.9	-35.0	-28.5	-30.2	-31.0	-31.6
Net interest cover (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Source: Company data, Deutsche Bank esti	mates					



### Company update

#### Valuation and risks

#### Still a good dividend yield; TP fine-tuned to HK\$3.87, from HK\$3.83

We lower our 2015/16 NP forecasts by 1.2%/6.5%, and introduce our FY2017 forecasts. We fine-tune our TP to HK\$3.87, from HK\$3.83, using a DCF valuation.

We use WACC of 7.6%, assuming COE of 7.6% for Hong Kong, based on a beta of 1.0. The beta is within the range (1-1.3) that we use when valuing the sector. Our terminal growth rate is 1%, in line with the 1-3% rate we apply to our consumer stocks. Our DCF-derived TP of HK\$3.87 is supported by an estimated yield of 7.0%, assuming a 96% payout in 2015, as management is committed to returning excess cash flow to investors, implying a FY15/16E PE of 13.8x/12.6x.

Downside risks include failure to recover key markets (including China and Taiwan) and competition from international casual-wear brands. Upside risks include a pick-up in sales momentum and margins in key markets and fast marketing initiatives performing better than expected.

F- 2			
FIGURE	 Forecast	chanc	100

YE Dec HK\$m	DB estimat	es (New)	DB estimates (Old)		Market forecast		vs. old DB estimates		VS market forecast	
	Sales	Net profit	Sales	Net profit	Sales	Net profit	Sales	Net profit	Sales	Net profit
15F	5,661	443	5,805	449	5,809	440	-2.5%	-1.2%	-2.5%	0.8%
16F	5,911	488	6,180	522	6,147	492	-4.3%	-6.5%	-3.8%	-0.8%
Source: Deutsche Bank estimates, Company data, Bloomberg Finance LP										

Figure 2: Operating assumption ch	าanges
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YE Dec HK\$m	DB estimates (Nev	<b>(</b> )	DB estimates (OI	d)	VS old DB estimate	es
	2015F	2016F	2015F	2016F	2015F	2016F
Retail						
China	1,564	1,611	1,649	1,764	-5.1%	-8.7%
HK	998	1,037	1,034	1,096	-3.5%	-5.3%
Taiwan	682	709	696	724	-2.0%	-2.0%
Singapore	335	348	337	354	-0.6%	-1.6%
Australia	113	115	111	115	2.0%	0.1%
Middle East	629	655	644	695	-2.2%	-5.9%
Other markets	942	990	916	961	2.9%	2.9%
Total retail	5,263	5,465	5,386	5,710	-2.3%	-4.3%
Wholesales	398	446	420	470	-5.2%	-5.2%
Total revenue	5,661	5,911	5,805	6,180	-2.5%	-4.3%
Gross profit	3,313	3,471	3,425	3,648	-3.3%	-4.8%
GP margin	59%	59%	59%	59%	-0.5%	-0.3%
EBIT	544	592	536	622	1.5%	-4.8%
EBIT margin	10%	10%	9%	10%	0.4%	-0.1%
Source: Deutsche Bank estimate	s, Company data					



Figure 3: Currency trend against HKD by quarter																
	TWD	KRW	SGD	IDR	MYR	THB	AED	SAR	TWD	KRW	SGD	IDR	MYR	THB	AED	SAR
average rate												yoy cha	ange			
1Q14	0.2562	0.0073	6.1153	0.0007	2.3531	0.2377	2.1125	2.0689	-2.6%	1.5%	-2.4%	-18.1%	-6.5%	-8.7%	0.0%	0.0%
2014	0.2575	0.0075	6.1897	0.0007	2.3968	0.2389	2.1108	2.0671	-1.0%	8.9%	-0.4%	-15.9%	-5.3%	-8.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
3Q14	0.2582	0.0075	6.1928	0.0007	2.4285	0.2414	2.1103	2.0667	-0.6%	7.9%	1.2%	-9.9%	1.4%	-2.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
4Q14	0.2515	0.0071	5.9859	0.0006	2.3060	0.2371	2.1115	2.0669	-4.1%	-2.3%	-3.5%	-4.7%	-4.6%	-3.0%	0.0%	0.0%
FY14	0.2558	0.0074	6.1207	0.0007	2.3711	0.2388	2.1113	2.0674	-2.1%	3.9%	-1.3%	-12.5%	-3.8%	-5.5%	0.0%	0.0%
1Q15 ytd	0.2454	0.0071	5.7584	0.0006	2.1596	0.2375	2.1112	2.0659	-4.4%	-2.4%	-5.8%	-5.1%	-8.0%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.1%
Spot rate									yoy change							
03-Mar-15	0.2470	0.0071	5.6839	0.0006	2.1394	0.2397	2.1115	2.0680	-3.6%	-2.7%	-6.9%	-10.7%	-9.5%	0.4%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Source: Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP Note: AED is UAE Dirham, SAR is Saudi Arabian Riyal																

#### 2015 outlook

January/February 2015 SSSG grew in the mid-single digits, with flat yoy global brand sales, based on the latest data. The company saw double-digit SSSG in China, HK, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand, while markets like UAE and S. Korea experienced double-digit declines. Management commented that the good performance for January/February was due partly to better performances in markets like Greater China and Singapore, with improved product mixes, and partly to a low base (Figure 3).

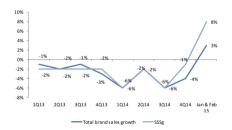
2015 guidance: stabilisation in China, GPM improvement, HK\$20-40m savings from store closures. During the analysts' presentation, management commented that it hoped to stabilise China's sales performance. As for the overall group, it needs mid-single-digit SSSG (high-single-digit for HK) to maintain its EBITM. That said, lower SSSG might be sufficient, if the company is able to improve its GPM through better sourcing and lower cotton prices. It also guided for an improving GPM, although it did not quantify how this would be achieved. As for the benefits, management expects ~HK\$20-40m savings from the absence of loss-making stores and the upcoming closures of loss-making stores.

Management expects to see "volatility in demand across the group" in 2015. On the one hand, it saw strong starts in some markets, like China, where SSSG turned positive in 2Q14, despite a low base, and SEA markets like Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand, which experienced a strong 4Q14 recovery. On the other hand, franchisees in China are still reluctant to open new stores, demand in HK and Korea remains weak, and macro weakness clouds Singapore, Malaysia and the Middle East.

#### Strategy by market

China - Consumer demand remains weak, with keen competition from international brands. It will continue to eliminate loss-making stores and improve the product mix. Stores regarded as weaker and damaging to brand equity are down to 162 stores, from 358 a year ago. Franchisees remain cautious. Management plans to use volume

Figure 4: Brand sales and SSSG by quarters



Source: Deutsche Bank, company data



rebates and renovation/marketing subsidies to help franchisees and achieve stabilisation of the network. It will open more "Beau Monde" stores, a new basic casual brand, which has 13 stores in supermarkets and other locations in Guangdong, Shanghai and Taiwan.

- Hong Kong and Taiwan Management continues to relocate stores to less-prime locations. The product mix will shift more towards pricecompetitive basic products than in 2014. In Taiwan, it will continue its marketing programmes and local merchandising.
- SEA In Singapore, it is correcting its merchandise mix. In other key markets, like Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, it will continue to expand into regional locations to realise a "first-mover advantage".
- Middle East UAS experienced increasing competition. Saudi Arabia is affected by geopolitical instability. It will continue to close loss-making stores and focus on operational excellence. It will also look into new markets. A new store is expected to open in Zambia, Africa, in 2015.

Management believes its ability to execute strategy is improving. It has established a regional focus in China. On the sourcing side, its emphasis will be on its global programme, which will enhance its cost efficiency and price competitiveness. In terms of design, it will reposition the Giordano Women's brand design to "modern basic" in 2015, as performance was not strong in 2014. Meanwhile, it also plans to beef up its online business. In 2014, it set up 318 in-store terminals, which enable customers to buy online in stores. This will continue in 2015.

#### 2014 review

#### Net profit/sales in line with market and our forecasts

Net profit decreased 38% yoy, to HK\$408m, on a 5% decline in sales revenue. Net profit and sales were in line with Deutsche Bank forecasts and market consensus. Excluding any currency impact, net profit decreased 29% yoy, to HK\$471m. The company declared a final dividend of HK14.5 cents, and thus a full year DPS of HK25 cents. The full-year dividend payout ratio was 96%, vs. 94% in 2013.

### Sales improve in 2H14 in China and TW, but demand was down in Middle East and Korea

Sales declined 5% (down 3% in local currency), to HK\$5.5bn. Global brand sales and SSSG fell by 4% and 4%, respectively.

China (28% of total sales in FY14) – positive SSSG in 2H14, encouraging sales growth in 2015 CNY. Sales declined 9% (down 8% in local currency), to HK\$1.6bn, in an extremely price-competitive environment. SSSG was down 2% in 2014. SSSG was weak, with a 10% decline in 1Q14, but strengthened in the last three quarters, with 1% growth for 2Q/3Q/4Q. Online sales increased 6%, to HK\$183m, which is disappointing, given the rapid growth in this channel. Management believes this reflects a significant number of global brands entering the online market. Sales on Singles Day in November were flat.



- HK (18%) tough environment in 2014. Sales fell 6%, to HK\$1bn. SSSG declined by 5%, due to the slowdown of the local retail market, due mainly to the changing nature of visitors from the PRC.
- Taiwan (12%) positive response to locally designed products. Sales declined 3% (decrease of 1% in local currency), to HK\$662m. SSSG increased 1%. Taiwan sales were relatively strong for the year, after a disappointing CNY in early 2014. Sales grew at mid-single-digit levels during the last three quarters. This reflects the success of locally developed products and local marketing programmes.
- Rest of Asia Pacific (25%) volatile in SEA, with gradual pick-up since 4Q14. Sales in the rest of Asia Pacific declined 7%, with a decline of 6% in SSSG. Consumer demand was depressed, due to currency depreciation, socio-political unrest and the removal of government subsidies on commodities. Sales in Singapore declined 13%, due to weak demand from tourist shops and inappropriate merchandising decisions. Sales in Indonesia were flat yoy, with some recovery in 4Q14. Sales in Thailand declined 3%, due to socio-political instability. In Australia, sales declined 20%, as it restructured its operations and closed loss-making stores.
- Middle East (11%) instability resulted in volatile demand. Sales for Middle East decreased 2%, with a decline of 6% in SSSG, owing mainly to geopolitical instability and travel restrictions.
- South Korea intense competition and sluggish economy depressed sales. Sales declined 1%, to HK\$1.8bn (a decline of 4% in local currency), due to the challenging market. The influx of overseas brands into the market, along with increasing online sales competition, depressed sales demand, particularly in department stores. In addition, consumer confidence weakened sharply after the ferry tragedy; recovery has been sluggish.

**Store network.** It net closed 190 stores in 2014. By region, it net closed 200 stores in China, including 140 franchised stores and 11 stores in HK and TW. It added 20 stores in the rest of Asia Pacific. By end-2014, it operated 2,452 stores.

GP margin declined 2.7ppts, to 58% due to product mix and the depreciation of southeast Asia currencies. Volume was down 4%, due mainly to a very weak CNY in early 2014. Volume reduction narrowed to 2% in 2H14, from 7% in 1H14, as the company has improved merchandising and taken normal discounting to clear excess inventory. ASP increased 1% in a fiercely price-competitive market. The GP margin decline narrowed in 2H14 (2ppts) compared with 1H14 (3.6ppts).

**Opex decreased 3%,** to HK\$2.7bn, on strong cost control and the closure of unprofitable shops. Opex as a percentage of sales increased 2ppts, to 50%, due mainly to the increase of rental costs (1.1ppts).

**EBIT declined 35%, to HK\$526m**. The EBIT margin declined 4.2ppts, to 9.5%.

Inventory turnover period down two days, to 80 days. Inventory was higher than management's expectation, as the inventory reduction in 1H14 was partly reversed in 2H14. This was due to disappointing e-sales, stocking of high-value outerwear in response to cold weather, and low shipments to Chinese



franchisees. Excluding China and TW, the inventory turnover period decreased by 12 days, to 68 days.

**Capex** decreased HK\$12m, to HK\$144m. The decrease was due mainly to the slowdown of SEA market expansion.

**Cash position.** Net cash was HK\$915m as of end-2014, vs. HK\$1.1bn as of end-2013.

Figure 5: Half-year results

YE Dec 31	1H11	2H11	1H12	2H12	1H13	2H13	1H14	2H14
HK\$m								
Turnover	2,649.0	2,965.0	2,698.0	2,975.0	2,841.0	3,007.0	2,672.0	2,873.0
YOY % Growth	24.0	14.3	1.8	0.3	5.3	1.1	-5.9	-4.5
Sales Split %	47.2	52.8	47.6	52.4	48.6	51.4	48.2	51.8
Gross Profit	1581	1702	1566	1765	1765	1786	1565	1649
GPM%	59.7%	57.4%	58.0%	59.3%	62.1%	59.4%	58.6%	57.4%
Opex	-1,136	-1,256	-1,197	-1,296	-1,351	-1,396	-1,343	(1,345.0)
% to sales	-42.9%	-42.4%	-44.4%	-43.6%	-47.6%	-46.4%	-50.3%	-46.8%
EBIT	445	446	369	469	414	390	222	304
Net interest income	6	10	10	12	10	10	9	6
Op Profit before Excep Item	451.0	456.0	379.0	481.0	424.0	400.0	231.0	310.0
Exception Item	0.0	0.0	71.0	72.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates	39.0	58.0	46.0	60.0	35.0	44.0	28.0	27.0
Profit Before Tax	490.0	514.0	496.0	613.0	459.0	444.0	259.0	337.0
Tax	(119.0)	(106.0)	(120.0)	(101.0)	(83.0)	(90.0)	(59.0)	(71.0)
Minority Interest	(25.0)	(26.0)	(24.0)	(38.0)	(36.0)	(31.0)	(26.0)	(32.0)
Net Profit	346.0	382.0	352.0	474.0	340.0	323.0	174.0	234.0
YOY % Growth	71.3	14.0	1.7	24.1	(3.4)	(31.9)	(48.8)	(27.6)
Profit Split %	47.5	52.5	42.6	57.4	51.3	48.7	42.6	57.4
Core net profit	346.0	382.0	281.0	402.0	340.0	323.0	174.0	234.0
YOY % Growth	63%	13%	-19%	5%	21%	-20%	-49%	-28%

Source: Deutsche Bank, Company data



### Appendix 1

#### **Important Disclosures**

#### Additional information available upon request

Disclosure checklist								
Company	Ticker	Recent price*	Disclosure					
Giordano	0709.HK	3.74 (HKD) 3 Mar 15	NA					

<sup>\*</sup>Prices are current as of the end of the previous trading session unless otherwise indicated and are sourced from local exchanges via Reuters, Bloomberg and other vendors. Data is sourced from Deutsche Bank and subject companies.

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### Historical recommendations and target price: Giordano (0709.HK) (as of 3/3/2015)





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Buy: Based on a current 12- month view of total share-holder return (TSR = percentage change in share price from current price to projected target price plus pro-jected dividend yield), we recommend that investors buy the stock.

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#### Notes:

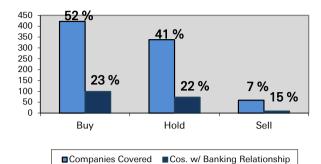
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