Deutsche Bank Markets Research



West China Cement

<mark>Asia</mark> China

Resources Construction Materials ReutersBloomberg2233.HK2233 HK

Exchange Ticker HSI 2233

FY14 misses due to one-offs; turnaround expected for FY15

FY14 NPAT down 91% YoY due to price war and debt restructuring

WCC announced its FY14 results with NP of RMB36mn or EPS of RMB0.8 cents/sh, down 91% yoy. While WCC achieved its GP/t guidance of RMB35/t for FY14, the earnings miss was due to multiple one-offs that totaled RMB120m and an effective tax rate that ballooned to c.70%. Due to the low profitability of WCC in FY14, the one-offs (which will go away in FY15) magnified the impact of its earnings decline. Despite the poor result, WCC continues to be financially sound, remaining FCF positive in 2014. The dividend payout ratio was unchanged at c.25%, and net gearing was flat at 68%. We remain buyers for WCC as we expect to see a V-shaped turnaround in 2015.

The one-off losses that affected FY14 earnings

A number of factors have contributed to the significant decline in WCC's FY14 bottom line: 1) c.RMB80mn of FX swing (FY13 FX gain at c.RMB73mn vs. FY14 FX loss of c.RMB5mn) due to depreciation of RMB/USD; 2) refinancing of the USD400m Jan 2016 notes at 103.75, which led to a c.RMB92mn early redemption charge; 3) an additional c.RMB16mn in interest expense, with WCC paying one month of extra interest (lag time between issuance of Sep 2019 bond and redemption of Jan 2016 bond) and 4) c.RMB4m in impairment losses on its Yutian Plant due to the continued relatively low capacity utilization rates at this plant, but those charges can be written back again once profitability rises. See Figure 1 for explanation over key items for 2014 P&L.

Demand showed healthy recovery in Shaanxi

Based on our recent channel checks, demand has shown a solid recovery after CNY in Shaanxi, in line with the government's target of 20% FAI growth for 2015. Leading producers have seen daily output return to c.80% of normal levels, vs. the national average of 30-50%. Conch's Liquan and WCC's Shifeng plants (2 x 5,000 t/d each) in Central Shaanxi have seen daily output reach c.10,000 t/d, which is c.80% of normal levels. In Southern Shaanxi, prices have already been hiked by c.RMB20/t YTD, with low-grade cement prices at c.RMB310/t and high-grade cement at c.RMB360/t. Prices in nearby regions in Hubei and Henan have also been hiked by RMB20/t WoW. As property and infrastructure demand picks up further in the coming weeks, we expect central Shaanxi prices to move higher.

Recommending accumulation on any weakness due to poor FY14 results

We believe the worst is over for WCC, with the price war coming to an end and its financial restructuring completed in 2014. We see a number of positive catalysts that will materialize in the coming months: 1) price hikes in 2015; 2) consolidation in Shaanxi province (Conch has recently sent staff to Shengtai Cement for technical support/due diligence); 3) increase in infrastructure spending driven by Silk Road Economic Belt development and 4) potential M&A involving WCC. Our TP of HKD1.55 is unchanged derived using 1 x P/B. We believe any equity cooperation with WCC will have to be done at a minimum of book value due to its high quality assets. Risks: the continuation of the price war in Shaanxi. WCC will host an analyst briefing on March 17 at 10:00am JW Marriot, followed in Hong Kong, by an NDR

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Date 17 March 2015 Results

Price at 16 Mar 2015 (HKD)	0.96
Price target - 12mth (HKD)	1.55
52-week range (HKD)	1.10 - 0.70
HANG SENG INDEX	23,950

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17 March 2015 **Construction Materials** West China Cement

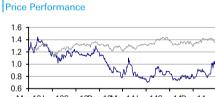


Model updated:25 February 2018	5	Fiscal year end 31-Dec	2011	2012	2013	2014E	2015E	2016E
Running the numbers		Financial Summary						
Asia		DB EPS (CNY)	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.16
China		Reported EPS (CNY) DPS (CNY)	0.16 0.03	0.08 0.02	0.08 0.02	0.02 0.01	0.09 0.03	0.16 0.05
Construction Materials		BVPS (CNY)	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3
		Weighted average shares (m)	4,259	4,416	4,547	4,540	4,540	4,540
West China Cement		Average market cap (CNYm) Enterprise value (CNYm)	8,416 11,271	5,347 8,789	4,565 8,013	3,300 6,547	3,300 6,042	3,300 4,751
Reuters: 2233.HK Blo	oomberg: 2233 HK		11,271	0,705	0,010	0,047	0,042	4,751
Buy		Valuation Metrics P/E (DB) (x)	12.7	14.7	12.1	37.1	8.3	4.7
Price (16 Mar 15)	HKD 0.96	P/E (Reported) (x) P/BV (x)	12.7 1.13	14.7 1.20	12.1 0.82	37.1 0.70	8.3 0.65	4.7 0.58
		FCF Yield (%)	nm	10.0	2.0	9.0	15.8	40.8
Target Price	HKD 1.55	Dividend Yield (%)	1.7	1.7	2.0	0.6	3.4	5.9
52 Week range	HKD 0.70 - 1.10	EV/Sales (x)	3.5	2.5	1.9	1.7	1.3	0.9
Market Cap (m)	HKDm 4,092	EV/EBITDA (x) EV/EBIT (x)	9.7 12.0	8.3 14.7	6.4 11.7	6.2 13.9	4.6 8.0	2.8 4.1
	USDm 527		12.0	14.7	11.7	13.9	0.0	4.1
Company Profile		Income Statement (CNYm)	0.100	0.504	4 100	0.047	4 571	E 410
West China Cement Limited is a	leading producer of	Sales revenue Gross profit	3,190 884	3,524 675	4,168 729	3,847 636	4,571 909	5,410 1,341
cement and clinker in North Wester	ern China, currently	EBITDA	1,161	1,060	1,261	1,049	1,326	1,704
operating in Shaanxi and Xinjiang pro- employs NSP technology in all of its p		Depreciation	223	464	574	578	572	557
employs not technology in an of its p	foddetion intes.	Amortisation EBIT	0 938	0 597	0 687	0 471	0 754	0 1,147
		Net interest income(expense)	-174	-138	-212	-290	-181	-150
		Associates/affiliates	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Exceptionals/extraordinaries Other pre-tax income/(expense)	0 0	0 0	0	0 0	0 0	0
		Profit before tax	763	459	475	181	573	997
Price Performance		Income tax expense	103	86	93	85	143	249
1.6		Minorities	-2 0	8	4 0	1	4 0	8
1.6 1.4		Other post-tax income/(expense) Net profit	662	0 365	378	0 95	425	0 740
1.2	and more a	DB adjustments (including dilution)	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.0		DB Net profit	662	365	378	95	425	740
0.8 - Nr. M.	mon man	Cash Flow (CNYm)						
0.6 +	· · · · ·	Cash flow from operations	642	1,090	662	830	957	1,675
Mar 13Jun 13Sep 13Dec 13Mar 14Jur	n 14Sep 14Dec 14	Net Capex	-1,655	-557	-569	-513	-402	-242
West China Cement HANG SENG INDEX	(Rebased)	Free cash flow	-1,014	533	93	316	554	1,433
Margin Trends	(1050000)	Equity raised/(bought back)	0 -150	0 -60	0 -91	0 -91	0 -23	0 -119
		Dividends paid Net inc/(dec) in borrowings	2,087	-60 259	-607	-91	-23 -299	-119
40		Other investing/financing cash flows	-768	-892	742	-15	-42	-40
		Net cash flow	155	-161	138	247	191	474
40 32 28 24 24 20 16		Change in working capital	-213	392	-205	101	-93	280
		Balance Sheet (CNYm)						
		Cash and other liquid assets	566	519	623	861	1,072	1,569
11 12 13 14	E 15E 16E	Tangible fixed assets Goodwill/intangible assets	6,352 559	7,830 798	8,004 770	7,961 779	7,815 787	7,523 796
EBITDA Margin	EBIT Margin	Associates/investments	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Other assets	943	1,153	1,268	1,140	1,466	1,430
Growth & Profitability		Total assets	8,421	10,299	10,665	10,741	11,140	11,319
25	20	Interest bearing debt Other liabilities	3,312 930	3,869 1,583	4,030 1,550	4,066 1,585	3,767 1,876	2,966 2,227
25 20 15	- 15	Total liabilities	4,242	5,452	5,579	5,651	5,643	5,193
15		Shareholders' equity	4,069	4,756	5,044	5,048	5,450	6,071
5	- 10	Minorities Total shareholders' equity	109 4,179	91 4,847	41 5,085	42 5,090	47 5,497	54 6,126
0	- 5	Net debt	2,746	4,847 3,350	3,407	3,205	2,695	1,397
-10 11 12 13 14E	15E 16E 0	Key Company Metrics						
11 12 13 14E		Sales growth (%)	nm	10.5	18.3	-7.7	18.8	18.4
Sales growth (LHS)	ROE (RHS)	DB EPS growth (%)	na	-46.8	0.7	-74.9	348.4	74.0
Solvency		EBITDA Margin (%)	36.4	30.1	30.3	27.3	29.0	31.5
20		EBIT Margin (%)	29.4	16.9	16.5	12.2	16.5	21.2
80	10	Payout ratio (%) ROE (%)	22.0 17.4	24.2 8.3	24.0 7.7	24.0 1.9	28.0 8.1	28.0 12.8
60	- 8	Capex/sales (%)	52.0	16.0	13.9	13.3	8.8	4.5
40	- 4	Capex/depreciation (x)	7.4	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.4
20	- 4	Net debt/equity (%) Net interest cover (x)	65.7 5.4	69.1	67.0 3.2	63.0 1.6	49.0 4.2	22.8
		iver interest cover (x)	5.4	4.3	3.2	1.6	4.2	7.6

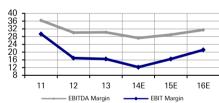
Source: Company data, Deutsche Bank estimates

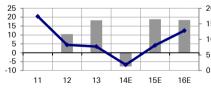
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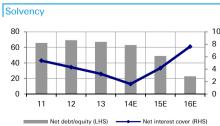
Target Price
52 Week range
Market Cap (m)



Mar 13Jun 13Sep 13Dec 13Mar - West China C - HANG SENG







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FY14 P&L walk-through

Figure 1: 2014 P&I	_				
RMB million	FY14	FY13	% уоу	Comments	
Revenue	3,883	4,168	-7%	In 2014, the Shaanxi market was affected by the price war launched by Conch, with ASPs declining by c.4 $\%$ yoy	
COGS	(3,285)	(3,439)	-4%		
Gross Profit	598	729	-18%	WCC achieved an overall GP/t of c.RMB35/t in 2014 versus c.RMB41/t in 2013.	
GPM%	15%	17%			
SG&A	(294)	(279)	6%	SG&A has been kept relatively steady	
Other Income/(loss)	53	237	-77%	 c.RMB80mn of FX swing (FY13 FX gain at c.RMB73mn vs. FY14 FX los c.RMB5mn) due to depreciation of RMB/USD; 2) refinancing of the Jan 20 notes, which incurred c.RMB92mn charge; 3) impairment losses of c.RMB4mn. 	
EBIT	357	687	-48%		
Interest expense	(222)	(212)	5%	Interest expenses also rose, with WCC paying one month of extra interest (time between issuance of the Sep 2019 bond and redemption of the Jan 2016 bond).	
Pretax income	135	475	-72%		
Tax expense	(96)	(93)	3%	Effective tax rates also rose to c.70%, since these one-off losses and loss generated by offshore subsidiaries were not tax-deductible.	
Net profit	39	382	-90%		
NIM%	1%	9%			
NP attributable to shareholders	36	378	-91%		
EPS	0.008	0.08	-91%	Low profitability levels of WCC together with multiple one-offs have magnified the earnings decline for WCC.	
Dividend (final)	0.002/sh	0.02/sh		WCC also announced a dividend of RMB0.002 per share, keeping its payout	
Dividend payout ratio	25%	24%		ratio constant at c.25%.	

As can be seen from the table below, price spreads between South Shaanxi and Central Shaanxi were at c.RMB50/t, indicating WCC's dominance in the South.

Figure 2: Operating	g data for FY14/13		
RMB/t	FY14	FY13	%уоу
ASP	220	228	-4%
South Shaanxi	246		
Central Shaanxi	194		
Volume	17.7	18.2	-3%
South Shaanxi	7.7		
Central Shaanxi	8.5		
GP	35	41	-15%
South Shaanxi	63		
Central Shaanxi	16		

Appendix 1

Important Disclosures

Additional information available upon request

Disclosure checklist			
Company	Ticker	Recent price*	Disclosure
West China Cement	2233.HK	0.97 (HKD) 16 Mar 15	6

*Prices 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: West China Cement (2233.HK) (as of 3/16/2015)



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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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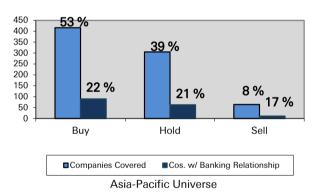
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Equity rating dispersion and banking relationships



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