Company Report: Uni-President China (00220 HK)

公司报告:统一企业中国 (00220 HK)

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HK\$5.600

GTJA Research 国泰君安研究

Ample Room for Profitability Improvement

盈利能力尚有很大的提升空间

- UPC's revenue in 2014 was RMB22.5 billion, down 3.6% YoY and reported net profit arrived at RMB286 million, down 68.8% YoY. UPC's reported net profit in 2014 missed consensus by more than 40% on 1) Absence of government grant; 2) Weak beverage business in 4Q14; and 3) Higher effective tax rate.
- UPC's sales growth of instant noodle business could remain gloomy in 2015 but the beverage business's profitability is expected to significantly improve on expected normalized summer and favorable raw materials. Some cost-savings will be reinvested in brand building and promotion of new products but the Company will focus on profitability in 2015. We revise up reported EPS forecasts in 2015-2016 by 52.8% and 41.6%, respectively. We expect UPC's reported EPS in 2015-2017 to be RMB0.172, RMB0.188 and RMB0.207, up 138.8%, 9.4% and 10.4% YoY, respectively.
- UPC's market capitalization and sales are approximately one-fourth and one-third of Tingyi's but UPC's earnings in 2015 are at most one-fifth that of Tingyi's (assuming Tingyi holds 100% equity interest in beverage business).
 We expect UPC's long-term profitability to further improve on new products initiation that leads to product mix improvement. Therefore, we upgrade UPC's investment rating to "Accumulate" but cut the Company's TP to HK\$6.20 on weak sales growth expectation. The new TP represents 28.6x 2015 PER, 26.1x 2016 PER and 23.7x 2017 PER.
- 统一 2014 年收入为人民币 225 亿元,同比下降 3.6%,而报告净利按年大跌 68.8%,至人民币 286 百万元。统一 2014 年报告净利较市场低超过 40%,主要是因为 1)政府补助大幅减少;2) 饮料业务于 2014 年第 4 季持续疲弱;及 3) 有效税率较高。
- 统一方便面分部于 2015 年的销售增长预期仍然疲弱,但受惠于正常炎热的夏天及原材料价格走低,饮料分部利润率预期将大幅改善。统一预期将从原材料所省下的部分费用投放于品牌及新品推广,但公司同时表示 2015 年的重点是改善利润率。我们分别上调统一2015-2016 年每股报告净利预测 52.8%及 41.6%。我们预期统一 2015-2017 年每股报告净利分别为人民币 0.172 元、人民币 0.188 元及人民币 0.207 元,按年分别增长 138.8%、9.4%及 10.4%。
- 统一的市值及收入分别约为康师傅的四分之一及三分之一,但统一 2015 年净利预期最多 仅为康师傅的五分之一(假设康师傅持有饮料业务 100%股权)。我们认为统一推出新品 有助产品组合改善,长期利润率仍然有提升空间。因此,我们上调统一的投资评级至"收 集",但由于较低的收入增长预期,目标价下调至 6.20 港元,相当于公司 28.6 倍 2015 年市盈率、26.1 倍 2016 年市盈率及 23.7 倍 2017 年市盈率。

| Rating: | Accumulate |
|--|----------------------|
| 评级: | 收集 (上调) |
| 6-18m TP 目标价: Revised from 原目标价: | HK\$6.20 HK\$7.00 |

Share price 股价:

Stock performance



| Change in Share Price 股价变动 | 1 M 1 个月 | 3 M 3 个月 | 1 Y 1 年 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Abs. % 绝对变动 % | (10.5) | (18.8) | (28.8) |
| Rel. % to HS index 相对恒指变动 % | (7.7) | (24.5) | (40.5) |
| Avg. share price(HK\$) 平均股价(港元) | 5.9 | 6.5 | 6.6 |
| Source: Bloomberg, Guotai J | lunan Internat | ional. | |

| Year End 年结 | Turnover 收入 | Net Profit 股东净利 | EPS 每股净利 | EPS 每股净利变动 | PER 市盈率 | BPS 每股净资产 | PBR 市净率 | DPS 每股股息 | Yield 股息率 | ROE 净资产收益率 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 12/31 | (RMB m) | (RMB m) | (RMB) | (△%) | (x) | (RMB) | (x) | (RMB) | (%) | (%) |
| FY13A | 23,329 | 916 | 0.255 | 7.1 | 17.2 | 2.262 | 1.9 | 0.051 | 1.2 | 11.6 |
| FY14A | 22,488 | 286 | 0.072 | (71.8) | 62.4 | 2.509 | 1.8 | 0.013 | 0.3 | 3.0 |
| FY15F | 24,033 | 741 | 0.172 | 138.8 | 25.8 | 2.667 | 1.7 | 0.034 | 0.8 | 6.6 |
| FY16F | 25,563 | 810 | 0.188 | 9.4 | 23.6 | 2.820 | 1.6 | 0.038 | 0.8 | 6.8 |
| FY17F | 26,898 | 894 | 0.207 | 10.4 | 21.4 | 2.990 | 1.5 | 0.041 | 0.9 | 7.1 |
| Shares in iss | ue (m) 总股数 (r | n) | | 4,319.3 | Major | shareholder 大股 | 东 | Uni-Pre | esident Ente | rprises 70.5% |
| Market cap. (| (HK\$m) 市值 (H | lK\$ m) | | 24,188.3 | Free fl | oat (%) 自由流通 | 比率 (%) | | | 29.5 |
| 3 month aver | month average vol. 3 个月平均成交股数 ('000) | | | 4,016.5 | FY15 | Net gearing (%) 1 | | 33.8 | | |
| 52 Weeks hig | gh/low (HK\$) 52 | 周高/低 | | 7.970 / 5.550 | FY15 | Est. NAV (HK\$) 1 | 5年每股估值 | (港元) | | 6.2 |

Source: the Company, Guotai Junan International.



Key Takeaways from Analyst Meeting:

Gloomy Noodles Outlook in 2015 but Expect Beverages to Rebound. In addition to weak macro environment, UPC also attributes slow revenue growth in 2014 to be shift of Spring Festival (2015: Feb; 2014: Jan). However, the Company admits that both YTD noodles and beverages sales growths have not shown strong rebounds versus the latest previous months. Inventory level of distribution channel is not high but is also not exceptionally low. The management does not seem to believe 2015 is a good year to UPC's instant noodle business but hopes its high-end products to gain higher market share. On the other hand, with expected normalized summer (hot and sunny) in 2015 vs. exceptional cool and rainy summer in 2014, the Company believes its beverage business to report both satisfactory sales growth and profitability improvement benefitted from low raw materials prices in 2015.

New Products and Promotion Scheme. UPC is expected to launch many new products in all aspects (noodles, RTD tea, juice, etc...) to the market in 2015. All these new products are mid-to-high-end products with ASP of RMB5/pack or bottle and gross margin is expected to be more than 40%. On the other hand, the Company will try to promote its brand rather than its products in order to avoid peers entering the market and producing very similar products to compete against UPC. Selling expenses to turnover ratio in 2015 may slightly go up as the Company needs to promote quite a lot of new products in 2015.

Eye on Distributors' Help to Promote New Products. Originally UPC's salesperson to fight for business on their own and distributors only act as logistics provider and provides warehouse services to the Company. UPC intends to rely more on distributors to promote its new products and the Company is able to provide more incentives to distributors as the new products' profitability are much higher than the old ones. Thus, UPC may not hire new salesperson in 2015 and instead, possible layoffs of existing salesperson as some job duties are delegated to distributors.

Profitability Focus in 2015. With weak results in 2014 and gloomy economic environment, UPC admits that profitability will be the primarily focus in 2015. Although some cost-savings from raw materials will be reinvested in brand building, the majority is expected to go to the bottom line, which should be realized especially in 2H15 if beverages sales are better. On the other hand, the management is still aiming to achieve breakeven for its instant noodle business. For 1H15, UPC benefits from low raw materials prices but facing huge pressure in top-line.

No Plan to Dispose Machineries to Mother Company in 2015. UPC disposed 4 factories to the mother company in 2013 and 2014 and recorded a total disposal gain of RMB370 million. The management says currently there is no plan for further machineries and factories disposal to the mother company in 2015. However, with utilisation rate of only 50%-55% in 2014 and a further capital expenditure of at most RMB3 billion to be spent in 2015, we still believe there is a possibility for UPC to dispose old machineries to the mother company in 2015. On the other hand, the management does not expect government grant to significantly increase YoY in 2015 due to the completion of new factories.

2014 Annual Results Review:

Absence of Government Grant and Weak 4Q14 Results. UPC's reported net profit in 2014 plunged by 68.8% YoY, to only RMB286 million, which missed consensus by more than 40% due to significant fall of government grant (down RMB211 million YoY) and high effective tax rate (2014: 39.2%, up 12.1 ppt YoY). On the other hand, the Company's reported net profit in 1Q-3Q14 was RMB350 million, which means the Company made a reported net loss of RMB64 million in 4Q14. As the Company recorded RMB160 million disposal gain (pre-tax) in 4Q14, core net loss in 4Q14 is expected to be amounted to above RMB160 million, which could be the worst 4Q in the past 8 years.

Table-1: 2014 Annual Results Review

| | | | Incon | ne Statemen | t | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| RMB million | 2013 | 2014 | YoY | 1H13 | 1H14 | YoY | 2H13 | 2H14 | YoY |
| Revenue | 23,329 | 22,488 | -3.6% | 12,204 | 12,367 | 1.3% | 11,125 | 10,121 | -9.0% |
| Cost of sales | <u>(15,549)</u> | <u>(15,179)</u> | -2.4% | <u>(8,059)</u> | <u>(8,347)</u> | 3.6% | <u>(7,490)</u> | <u>(6,832)</u> | -8.8% |
| Gross Profit | 7,780 | 7,308 | -6.1% | 4,145 | 4,020 | -3.0% | 3,635 | 3,289 | -9.5% |
| Other income, net | 384 | 168 | -56.3% | 162 | 73 | -54.8% | 222 | 95 | -57.4% |
| Distribution expenses | (6,825) | (6,295) | -7.8% | (3,498) | (3,208) | -8.3% | (3,327) | (3,086) | -7.2% |
| Administrative expenses | <u>(840)</u> | <u>(968)</u> | 15.2% | <u>(390)</u> | <u>(469)</u> | 20.2% | <u>(450)</u> | <u>(499)</u> | 10.9% |
| Core EBIT | 499 | 214 | -57.2% | 419 | 416 | -0.7% | 81 | (202) | n.a. |
| Finance income, net | (7) | (22) | 192.6% | 1 | (64) | n.a. | (9) | 42 | n.a. |
| Associates & JVs | <u>88</u> | <u>85</u> | -3.9% | <u>48</u> | <u>103</u> | 112.1% | <u>40</u> | <u>(18)</u> | n.a. |
| Core Profit before tax | 580 | 277 | -52.3% | 468 | 454 | -3.0% | 112 | (177) | n.a. |
| Other gains | 536 | 138 | -74.3% | 261 | 0 | -99.9% | 275 | 137 | -50.0% |
| Income tax | <u>(200)</u> | <u>(129)</u> | -35.3% | <u>(154)</u> | <u>(99)</u> | -35.8% | <u>(45)</u> | <u>(30)</u> | -33.8% |
| Reported Net Profit | 916 | 286 | -68.8% | 575 | 355 | -38.2% | 342 | (70) | n.a. |
| Core Net Profit * | 447 | 202 | -54.9% | 373 | 355 | -4.8% | 74 | (153) | n.a. |
| Gross Margin | 33.3% | 32.5% | -0.8 ppt | 34.0% | 32.5% | -1.5 ppt | 32.7% | 32.5% | -0.2 ppt |
| Core EBIT Margin | 2.1% | 1.0% | -1.2 ppt | 3.4% | 3.4% | -0.1 ppt | 0.7% | -2.0% | -2.7 ppt |
| Reported Net Margin | 3.9% | 1.3% | -2.7 ppt | 4.7% | 2.9% | -1.8 ppt | 3.1% | -0.7% | -3.8 ppt |
| Core Net Margin | 1.9% | 0.9% | -1.0 ppt | 3.1% | 2.9% | -0.2 ppt | 0.7% | -1.5% | -2.2 ppt |

Source: the Company, Guotai Junan International.

* Exclude disposal gains and FOREX.

RTD Tea Suffered the Most in 2H14. Due to exceptional cool and rainy summer in 2014, demand for beverages slowed HoH in 2H14 and distributors were actively clearing excessive inventories. Therefore, beverages sales of UPC were negatively affected with a 14.2% YoY fall. Among various beverages, sales of RTD tea in 2H14 were the weakest with a 24.2% YoY fall. On the other hand, despite a 4.5% YoY fall in juice sales in 2H14, such products' sales YoY growth in 2H14 slightly improved HoH, while other beverages' sales YoY growth in 2H14 deteriorated HoH.

Table-2: Beverage Business Revenue Breakdown – By Product

| | Beverage Bu | usiness Reve | nue Breakdov | vn | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| | 41.14.2 | 0140 | 4114.4 | 0114.4 | 2H | 114 |
| RMB million | 1H13 | 2H13 | 1H14 | 2H14 | YoY | HoH |
| Segment Revenue | | | | | | |
| RTD Tea | 3,454 | 2,690 | 3,488 | 2,038 | -24.2% | -41.6% |
| Juice Drinks | 2,403 | 1,855 | 2,166 | 1,773 | -4.5% | -18.2% |
| Milk Tea & Others | <u>2,405</u> | <u>2,345</u> | <u>2,438</u> | <u>2,102</u> | -10.3% | -13.7% |
| Total | 8,262 | 6,890 | 8,092 | 5,913 | -14.2% | -26.9% |

Source: the Company.



Instant Noodle Business Turnaround in 2H14. Excluding disposal gains in 2013 (RMB213 million) and 2014 (RMB160 million), core operating profit of beverage business dropped by 14.6% YoY, to RMB543 million in 2014. Such disappointing results were mainly related to a 14.2% sales decrease in 2H14 and UPC's beverage business recorded a core operating loss of RMB78 million in 2H14, vs. a core operating profit of RMB186 million in 2H13. On the other hand, the Company's instant noodle business reported an operating profit of RMB22 million in 2H14, vs. an operating loss of RMB82 million in 2H13 and RMB116 million in 1H14.

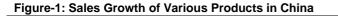
| | | | Segn | nent Results | ; | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|--------------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| RMB million | 2013 | 2014 | YoY | 1H13 | 1H14 | YoY | 2H13 | 2H14 | YoY |
| Segment Revenue | | | | | | | | | |
| Beverages | 15,152 | 14,005 | -7.6% | 8,262 | 8,092 | -2.1% | 6,890 | 5,913 | -14.2% |
| Instant Noodle | 7,826 | 7,960 | 1.7% | 3,777 | 3,939 | 4.3% | 4,049 | 4,021 | -0.7% |
| Others | <u>352</u> | <u>523</u> | 48.7% | <u>166</u> | <u>336</u> | 102.5% | <u>186</u> | <u>187</u> | 0.7% |
| Total | 23,329 | 22,488 | -3.6% | 12,204 | 12,367 | 1.3% | 11,125 | 10,121 | -9.0% |
| Gross Profit | | | | | | | | | |
| Beverages | 5,424 | 4,944 | -8.9% | 2,966 | 2,913 | -1.8% | 2,458 | 2,031 | -17.4% |
| Instant Noodle | 2,285 | 2,285 | 0.0% | 1,148 | 1,060 | -7.7% | 1,137 | 1,225 | 7.7% |
| Others | <u>70</u> | <u>80</u> | 14.2% | <u>31</u> | <u>47</u> | 53.5% | <u>40</u> | <u>33</u> | -16.4% |
| Total | 7,780 | 7,308 | -6.1% | 4,145 | 4,020 | -3.0% | 3,635 | 3,289 | -9.5% |
| Core Operating Profit * | | | | | | | | | |
| Beverages | 635 | 543 | -14.6% | 449 | 620 | 38.2% | 186 | (78) | n.a. |
| Instant Noodle | (143) | (94) | -34.4% | (60) | (116) | 92.4% | (82) | 22 | n.a. |
| Others | <u>(63)</u> | <u>(237)</u> | 274.6% | <u>18</u> | <u>(88)</u> | n.a. | <u>(82)</u> | <u>(149)</u> | 82.2% |
| Total | 430 | 212 | -50.6% | 407 | 416 | 2.2% | 22 | (204) | n.a. |
| Gross Margin | | | | | | | | | |
| Beverages | 35.8% | 35.3% | -0.5 ppt | 35.9% | 36.0% | 0.1 ppt | 35.7% | 34.3% | -1.3 ppt |
| Instant Noodle | 29.2% | 28.7% | -0.5 ppt | 30.4% | 26.9% | -3.5 ppt | 28.1% | 30.5% | 2.4 ppt |
| Core Operating Margin | | | | | | | | | |
| Beverages | 4.2% | 3.9% | -0.3 ppt | 5.4% | 7.7% | 2.2 ppt | 2.7% | -1.3% | -4.0 ppt |
| Instant Noodle | -1.8% | -1.2% | 0.6 ppt | -1.6% | -2.9% | -1.3 ppt | -2.0% | 0.6% | 2.6 ppt |

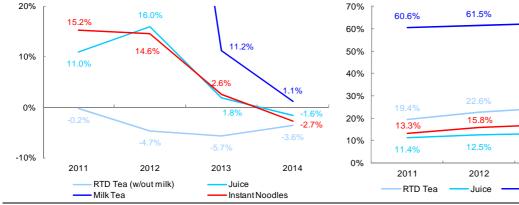
Table-3: Segment Results Breakdown – By Business

Source: the Company, Guotai Junan International.

* Exclude disposal gains.

Beverage Business Underperformed Industry Growth in 2014. UPC's sales growths of RTD tea, juice, and milk tea & coffee in 2014 were -10.0%, -7.5% and -5.1%, respectively, which all underperformed the corresponding industry growths of -3.6%, -1.6% and 1.1%. UPC's market shares in these markets in 2014 also slightly decreased YoY. However, UPC continued to gain market share in instant noodle business and the Company's instant noodle sales in 2014 also outperformed industry growth.





Source: the Company, Nielsen.

Figure-3: Production Volume Growth of Instant Noodles

Source: the Company, Nielsen.

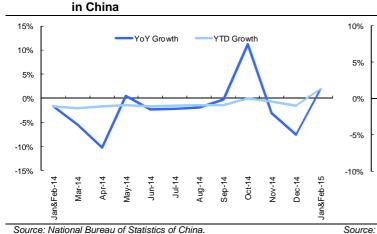


Figure-4: Revenue & Profit Growth of Instant Noodles and Instant Food Manufacturers in China

Figure-2: UPC Market Share in Various Markets

62.4%

17.2%

13.2%

2013

Milk Tea

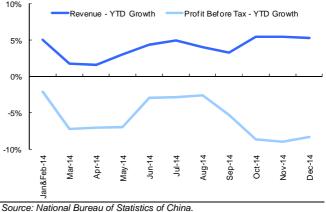
62.1%

17.9%

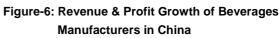
13.1%

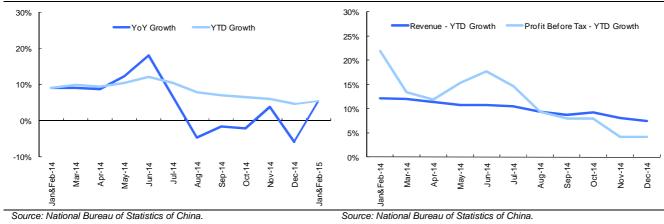
2014

Instant Noodles









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Figure-7: YoY Production Volume Growth of

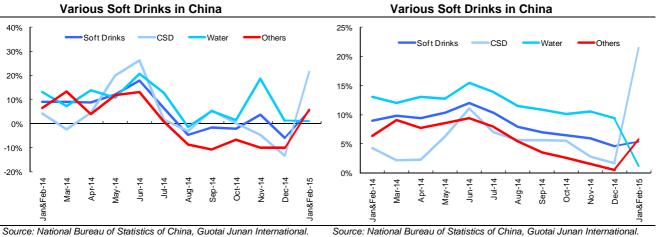
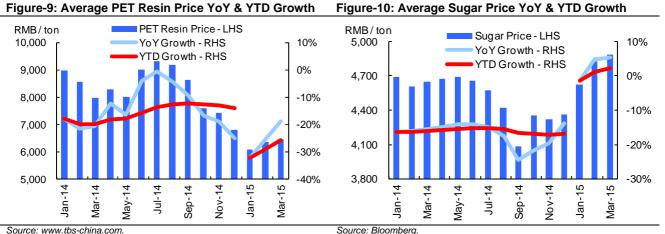


Figure-8: YTD Production Volume Growth of

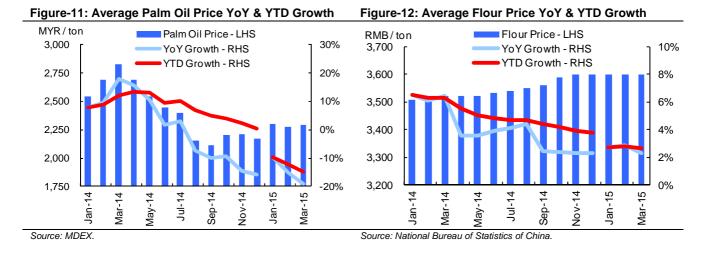
Beverage Business is Expected to Benefit from Low PET Resin Price. PET accounted for ~18% of UPC's total COGS in 2014. YTD PET resin price plunged by 27.1% YoY and was 24.7% lower than the average price in 2014. There could be possibility for crude oil price to rebound moderately from current level in 2H15 but we expect average PET resin price in 2015 to be at least 15% lower than that in 2014. Although sugar price rebounds, cost savings from weak PET resin as well as milk powder prices help beverages manufacturers' profitability to improve in 2015. We expect UPC's gross margin of beverage business to improve by 4.4 ppt YoY to 39.7% in 2015. On the other hand, palm oil price is currently under pressure while flour price is not expected to post huge pressure to instant noodle manufacturers in 2015. With the help of ASP and product mix improvement, instant noodle manufacturers' gross margin in 2015 is also expected to improve YoY. UPC's gross margin of instant noodle business is expected to reach 29.6% in 2015, up 0.9 ppt YoY.



Source: www.tbs-china.com.

19 March 2015





Earnings Forecast Assumptions and Revisions:

Revise Up Beverage Business Earnings Forecast on Higher Gross Margin. Due to better gross margin expectation on low raw materials prices and expected slight improvement in product mix, we revise up beverages business core EBIT by 55.7% and 44.6% in 2015-2016, respectively.

Table-4: Beverage Business Assumptions Revisions

| | | NEW | | OLD | | CHANGE | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| RMB million | 2015F | 2016F | 2017F | 2015F | 2016F | 2015F | 2016F | |
| Revenue | 15,284 | 16,161 | 16,794 | 15,226 | 16,075 | 0.4% | 0.5% | |
| Gross Profit | 6,071 | 6,306 | 6,386 | 5,574 | 5,869 | 8.9% | 7.4% | |
| Core Operating Profit | 1,230 | 1,223 | 1,252 | 790 | 846 | 55.7% | 44.6% | |
| Gross Margin | 39.7% | 39.0% | 38.0% | 36.6% | 36.5% | 3.1 ppt | 2.5 ppt | |
| Core Operating Margin | 8.0% | 7.6% | 7.5% | 5.2% | 5.3% | 2.9 ppt | 2.3 ppt | |

Source: Guotai Junan International.

Revise Down Instant Noodle Business Earnings Forecast on Weaker Sales Growth Expectation. Demand for instant noodle remains weak and UPC's "Revolution Noodles" does not receive overwhelming response from consumers. Therefore, we trim the Company's revenue growth and EBIT forecasts in 2015-2016.

Table-5: Instant Noodle Business Assumptions Revisions

| | | NEW | | OLD | | CHANGE | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|----------|
| RMB million | 2015F | 2016F | 2017F | 2015F | 2016F | 2015F | 2016F |
| Revenue | 8,200 | 8,825 | 9,498 | 8,763 | 9,431 | -6.4% | -6.4% |
| Gross Profit | 2,428 | 2,613 | 2,958 | 2,502 | 2,827 | -3.0% | -7.6% |
| Core Operating Profit | (21) | 41 | 128 | 57 | 138 | n.a. | -70.4% |
| Gross Margin | 29.6% | 29.6% | 31.1% | 28.6% | 30.0% | 1.1 ppt | -0.4 ppt |
| Core Operating Margin | -0.3% | 0.5% | 1.4% | 0.7% | 1.5% | -0.9 ppt | -1.0 ppt |

Source: Guotai Junan International.

Raise 2015 Reported Earnings by 52.8%. We revise up earnings forecast significantly as the Company's beverage business is expected to be hugely benefited from low raw materials prices. However, we remain slightly pessimistic towards the UPC's instant noodle business as the Company's new products are not expected to be as successful as "Pickled Cabbage" flavored ones. To conclude, UPC's reported net profit for 2015-2016 are revised up by 52.8% and 41.6%, respectively. The Company's reported EPS in 2015-2017 are expected to be RMB0.172, RMB0.188 and RMB0.207, up 138.8%, 9.4% and 10.4% YoY, respectively. Earnings growth is expected to slow in 2015 and 2016 as we still expect slow revenue growth, while gross margin could fall due to possible rebound of raw materials.



| | | NEW | | OLD | | CHANGE | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| RMB million | 2015F | 2016F | 2017F | 2015F | 2016F | 2015F | 2016F | |
| Revenue | 24,033 | 25,563 | 26,898 | 24,569 | 26,144 | -2.2% | -2.2% | |
| Gross Profit | 8,583 | 9,007 | 9,437 | 8,163 | 8,792 | 5.2% | 2.4% | |
| Core EBIT | 904 | 952 | 1,052 | 609 | 751 | 48.4% | 26.8% | |
| Reported Net Profit | 741 | 810 | 894 | 485 | 572 | 52.8% | 41.6% | |
| Core Net Profit * | 706 | 773 | 857 | 447 | 535 | 57.8% | 44.5% | |
| Reported EPS (RMB) | 0.172 | 0.188 | 0.207 | 0.112 | 0.132 | 52.8% | 41.6% | |
| Core EPS (RMB) | 0.163 | 0.179 | 0.198 | 0.104 | 0.124 | 57.8% | 44.5% | |
| Gross Margin | 35.7% | 35.2% | 35.1% | 33.2% | 33.6% | 2.5 ppt | 1.6 ppt | |
| Core EBIT Margin | 3.8% | 3.7% | 3.9% | 2.5% | 2.9% | 1.3 ppt | 0.9 ppt | |
| Reported Net Margin | 3.1% | 3.2% | 3.3% | 2.0% | 2.2% | 1.1 ppt | 1.0 ppt | |
| Core Net Margin | 2.9% | 3.0% | 3.2% | 1.8% | 2.0% | 1.1 ppt | 1.0 ppt | |

Table-6: Earnings Estimate Revisions

* Exclude disposal gains and FOREX.

Upgrade to "Accumulate" but Cut TP to HK\$6.20. We expect strong earnings growth to be seen in 2015 on significant fall in raw materials prices and possible sales rebound of beverages on expected better summer. However, weak sales growth is still a concern as sales contribution from new products are only able to alleviate negative impact from falling sales of old products. Valuation is fair as current price represents 25.8x 2015 PER. On the other hand, UPC's market capitalization and sales are approximately one-fourth and one-third of Tingyi's but UPC's earnings in 2015 are at most one-fifth that of Tingyi's (assuming Tingyi holds 100% equity interest in beverage business). We expect UPC's long-term profitability to further improve on new products initiation that leads to product mix improvement. Therefore, we upgrade UPC's investment rating to "Accumulate" but cut the Company's TP to HK\$6.20 on weak sales growth expectation. The new TP represents 28.6x 2015 PER, 26.1x 2016 PER and 23.7x 2017 PER.

Table-7: Peers Valuation Comparison

| Company | Ticker | \$ | Share | Market Cap | | PER (x) | | PBR (x) | ROE (%) | Gross Margin | Operating Margin |
|----------------------|----------|------|--------|------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | | · | Price | (HK\$ mn) | FY13A | FY14F | FY15F | FY14F | FY14F | FY14F | FY14F |
| Want Want China | 00151 HK | HK\$ | 7.820 | 103,164 | 19.4 | 21.5 | 17.8 | 6.5 | 31.1 | 40.2 | 20.6 |
| Tsingtao Brewery | 00168 HK | HK\$ | 48.850 | 68,310 | 26.5 | 26.2 | 23.6 | 3.4 | 14.0 | 33.5 | 7.3 |
| Uni-President China | 00220 HK | HK\$ | 5.600 | 24,188 | 17.4 | 62.0 | 26.4 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 32.5 | 1.7 |
| WH Group | 00288 HK | HK\$ | 4.030 | 59,033 | 13.7 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 1.5 | 20.2 | 16.6 | 7.5 |
| Tingyi | 00322 HK | HK\$ | 18.360 | 102,891 | 32.4 | 30.0 | 24.3 | 4.2 | 14.1 | 30.8 | 7.3 |
| China Foods | 00506 HK | HK\$ | 2.980 | 8,336 | n.a. | n.a. | 82.8 | 1.4 | (2.8) | 22.7 | 0.5 |
| Hengan International | 01044 HK | HK\$ | 86.450 | 105,850 | 28.6 | 28.3 | 23.2 | 5.9 | 21.7 | 45.6 | 20.6 |
| China Yurun Food | 01068 HK | HK\$ | 2.580 | 4,703 | 107.5 | n.a. | 89.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 7.5 | 0.1 |
| China Modern Dairy | 01117 HK | HK\$ | 2.570 | 12,406 | 20.9 | 9.8 | 10.0 | 1.5 | 16.5 | 37.4 | 27.3 |
| China Mengniu Dairy | 02319 HK | HK\$ | 36.450 | 71,429 | 32.0 | 27.2 | 22.4 | 2.7 | 11.6 | 31.5 | 4.9 |
| Vinda International | 03331 HK | HK\$ | 12.500 | 12,481 | 23.0 | 21.0 | 18.9 | 2.5 | 12.2 | 30.2 | 9.9 |
| China Huishan Dairy | 06863 HK | HK\$ | 1.360 | 19,475 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 9.2 | 1.1 | 10.7 | 54.9 | 37.8 |
| Simple Average | | | | | 30.2 | 24.6 | 29.7 | 2.7 | 12.7 | 31.9 | 12.1 |
| Weighted Average | | | | | 25.6 | 25.3 | 21.6 | 4.0 | 17.8 | 34.8 | 12.8 |

Source: Bloomberg, Guotai Junan International.



Financial Statements and Ratios

| inancial Statemen | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | e Statement | | | |
| Year end Dec (RMB m) | FY13A | FY14A | FY15F | FY16F | FY17F |
| Revenue | 23,329 | 22,488 | 24,033 | 25,563 | 26,898 |
| Cost of sales | (15,549) | (15,179) | (15,450) | (16,556) | (17,461) |
| Gross Profit | 7,780 | 7,308 | 8,583 | 9,007 | 9,437 |
| Other income, net | 384 | 168 | 175 | 180 | 185 |
| Selling expenses | (6,825) | (6,295) | (6,789) | (7,081) | (7,303) |
| Administrative expenses | (840) | (968) | (1,065) | (1,154) | (1,267) |
| Core EBIT | 499 | 214 | 904 | 952 | 1,052 |
| Finance income, net | (7) | (22) | (67) | (49) | (25) |
| Share of JCEs & associates | 88 | 85 | 120 | 96 | 86 |
| Core Profit before tax | 580 | 277 | 957 | 998 | 1,114 |
| Other gains, net | 536 | 138 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Income tax | (200) | (129) | (266) | (238) | (269) |
| Reported Net Profit | 916 | 286 | 741 | 810 | 894 |
| Core Net Profit * | 447 | 202 | 706 | 773 | 857 |
| Reported EPS (RMB) | 0.255 | 0.072 | 0.172 | 0.188 | 0.207 |
| Core EPS (RMB) | 0.124 | 0.051 | 0.163 | 0.179 | 0.198 |
| | Segm | ent Results | | | |
| Year end Dec (RMB m) | FY13A | FY14A | FY15F | FY16F | FY17F |
| Revenue | 23,329 | 22,488 | 24,033 | 25,563 | 26,898 |
| - Beverages | 15,152 | 14,005 | 15,284 | 16,161 | 16,794 |
| - Instant Noodles | 7,826 | 7,960 | 8,200 | 8,825 | 9,498 |
| - Others | 352 | 523 | 549 | 576 | 605 |
| Core Operating Profit | 430 | 212 | 954 | 1,002 | 1,102 |
| - Beverages | 635 | 543 | 1,230 | 1,223 | 1,252 |
| - Instant Noodles | (143) | (94) | (21) | 41 | 128 |
| - Others | (63) | (237) | (255) | (262) | (278) |
| | Cash Fl | ow Statemen | nt | | |
| Year end Dec (RMB m) | FY13A | FY14F | FY15F | FY16F | FY17F |
| Profit before tax | 1,116 | 415 | 1,007 | 1,048 | 1,164 |
| Depreciation & amortisation | 1,104 | 1,413 | 1,634 | 1,702 | 1,706 |
| Others | (578) | 22 | 55 | 69 | 65 |
| Working capital change | (23) | (101) | 36 | 11 | 14 |
| Interest and tax paid | (385) | (337) | (355) | (392) | (421) |
| Operating cash flow | 1,234 | 1,411 | 2,377 | 2,438 | 2,528 |
| Purchase of PP&E | (4,487) | (3,254) | (2,500) | (1,500) | (1,500) |
| Others | 404 | 29 | 316 | (95) | (95) |
| Investing cash flow | (4,083) | (3,225) | (2,184) | (1,595) | (1,595) |
| Change in borrowings, net | 2,147 | (168) | 164 | (500) | (500) |
| Dividends paid | (171) | 2,371 | (57) | (148) | (162) |
| Financing cash flow | 1,975 | 2,204 | 107 | (648) | (662) |
| Change in cash and cash | (874) | 390 | 299 | 195 | 271 |
| equivalents | (3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

| | Balance | Sheet | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| As at Dec 31 (RMB m) | FY13A | FY14A | FY15F | FY16F | FY17F |
| | | | | | |
| PP&E | 10,186 | 11,642 | 12,595 | 12,493 | 12,404 |
| Interests in JCEs & associates | 1,500 | 1,546 | 1,666 | 1,762 | 1,848 |
| Leasehold land | 2,114 | 2,151 | 2,182 | 2,198 | 2,199 |
| Others | 660 | 838 | 751 | 742 | 747 |
| Non-current assets | 14,460 | 16,176 | 17,193 | 17,196 | 17,198 |
| | | | | | |
| Inventories | 1,514 | 1,129 | 1,241 | 1,383 | 1,488 |
| Trade and other receivables | 1,574 | 1,744 | 1,949 | 2,142 | 2,304 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 1,414 | 1,804 | 2,103 | 2,298 | 2,569 |
| Others | 6 | 411 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Current assets | 4,508 | 5,088 | 5,293 | 5,822 | 6,361 |
| | | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 4,325 | 4,081 | 4,410 | 4,729 | 4,982 |
| Short-term borrowings | 902 | 1,556 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Others | 109 | 83 | 96 | 110 | 126 |
| Current liabilities | 5,336 | 5,721 | 6,005 | 6,339 | 6,609 |
| | | | | | |
| Long-term borrowings | 5,102 | 4,280 | 4,500 | 4,000 | 3,500 |
| Others | 388 | 427 | 460 | 496 | 535 |
| Non-current liabilities | 5,490 | 4,707 | 4,960 | 4,496 | 4,035 |
| | | | | | |
| Shareholders' equity | 8,142 | 10,837 | 11,520 | 12,183 | 12,915 |
| | | | | | |
| BPS (RMB) | 2.262 | 2.509 | 2.667 | 2.820 | 2.990 |

| | Financia | al Ratio | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | FY13A | FY14A | FY15F | FY16F | FY17F |
| Revenue Growth (%) | 9.0 | (3.6) | 6.9 | 6.4 | 5.2 |
| Gross Profit Growth (%) | 5.1 | (6.1) | 17.4 | 4.9 | 4.8 |
| Core EBIT Growth (%) | (41.9) | (57.2) | 322.8 | 5.3 | 10.6 |
| Reported Net Profit Growth (%) | 7.1 | (68.8) | 159.5 | 9.4 | 10.4 |
| Core Net Profit Growth (%) | (46.0) | (54.9) | 249.8 | 9.5 | 10.9 |
| Gross Margin (%) | 33.3 | 32.5 | 35.7 | 35.2 | 35.1 |
| - Beverages | 35.8 | 35.3 | 39.7 | 39.0 | 38.0 |
| - Instant Noodles | 29.2 | 28.7 | 29.6 | 29.6 | 31.1 |
| Core Operating Margin (%) | 1.8 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| - Beverages | 4.2 | 3.9 | 8.0 | 7.6 | 7. |
| - Instant Noodles | (1.8) | (1.2) | (0.3) | 0.5 | 1.4 |
| Reported Net Margin (%) | 3.9 | 1.3 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| Core Net Margin (%) | 1.9 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| ROA (%) | 5.2 | 1.4 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| ROE (%) | 11.6 | 3.0 | 6.6 | 6.8 | 7.1 |
| Inventory turnover days | 32.8 | 31.8 | 28.0 | 29.0 | 30.0 |
| Receivable turnover days | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.0 | 8.5 | 8. |
| Payable turnover days | 33.5 | 29.6 | 27.0 | 29.0 | 30.0 |
| Cash conversion cycle | 7.7 | 10.6 | 9.0 | 8.5 | 8. |
| Current Ratio (x) | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Quick Ratio (x) | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Net gearing (%) | 56.4 | 37.2 | 33.8 | 26.3 | 18.8 |
| Net interest cover (x) | 67.1 | 9.8 | 13.5 | 19.3 | 42.3 |
| Payout ratio (%) | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 |

Source: the Company, Guotai Junan International. * Exclude disposal gains and FOEX.

1,804

0

(3)

1,414

2,103

0

2,298

0

2,569

0

Foreign exchange effect

Cash balance at year end

19 March 2015



Company Rating Definition

The Benchmark: Hong Kong Hang Seng Index

Time Horizon: 6 to 18 months

| Rating | Definition | |
|------------|--|--|
| Buy | Relative Performance >15%; or the fundamental outlook of the company or sector is favorable. | |
| Accumulate | Relative Performance is 5% to 15%; or the fundamental outlook of the company or sector is favorable. | |
| Neutral | Relative Performance is -5% to 5%; or the fundamental outlook of the company or sector is neutral. | |
| Reduce | Relative Performance is -5% to -15%; or the fundamental outlook of the company or sector is unfavorable. | |
| Sell | Relative Performance <-15%; or the fundamental outlook of the company or sector is unfavorable. | |

Sector Rating Definition

The Benchmark: Hong Kong Hang Seng Index

Time Horizon: 6 to 18 months Rating Definition Outperform Relative Performance >5%; or the fundamental outlook of the sector is favorable. Neutral Relative Performance is -5% to 5%; or the fundamental outlook of the sector is neutral. Underperform Relative Performance <-5%; or the fundamental outlook of the sector is unfavorable.

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Company Report

19 March 2015