Consumer & Retail **Food Products** Equity - China



Tingyi (322 HK)

Upgrade to Hold: Better margin outlook but slow top line growth

- 2014 results were 10% below consensus estimates, mainly due to weaker-than-expected instant noodle and juice sales
- Management remains cautious on the near-term sales outlook, but margins should improve on lower input cost, more benign competitive landscape, and higher efficiency
- We upgrade to Hold and set a fair value TP of HKD16.70

What's new? 2014 net profit came in at USD400m, down 2% yoy on the back of a 6% decline in revenue. The results were 10% and 6% below consensus and our forecast, respectively. Weakness was mainly due to lower-than-expected instant noodle and juice sales in Q414, which were down 18% yoy and 41% yoy, respectively. For instant noodles, management believes the sales decline was mainly due to the food safety issue in Taiwan and weaker consumption. Demand for traditional juice drinks was exceptionally weak in 2014 as there was a shift in consumer preference from traditional juice drinks to other juice beverages and functional drinks.

Better margin outlook but slow top-line growth. The beverage business recorded a loss of USD43m in 2H14, and this was mainly due to volume de-leveraging and extra trade promotion, as well as extra operating expenses of USD73m related to the dismissal of Pepsi bottling employees. Management indicated that the integration process with the Pepsi business is ongoing, and there could still be some one-off charges over the next two years. Having said that, management believes the margin outlook should be more favourable in 2015 given the sharp decline in PET prices, lower A&P due to easing competition after the removal of sausage promotion, and higher efficiency from integration of the food and beverage business. We project its net margin to improve from 3.9% in 2014 to 4.6% in 2015e and 5.2% in 2016e. Despite better margin outlook, near term sales momentum is still lacklustre, and management does not expect a meaningful sales recovery in the short term. Capex for 2015 is expected to be 20-30% and Tingyi will also be more selective on their capex spend.

Earnings, valuation and risks. We have revised down 2015-16 earnings estimates by 2%, and our new 2015-16 earnings estimates are 7-13% below consensus. We set a fair value target price at HKD16.70 based on DCF. This is lower than our prior 12-month TP of HKD17.00 mostly due to lower earnings estimates and shift to new ratings system, and implies a 25.5x 2015e PE. Key upside risks include faster-than-expected sales recovery and margin improvement. Key downside include more intense competition and weak volume growth.

Source: HSBC

Index^	HSCEI
Index level	12,156
RIC	0322.HK
Bloomberg	322 HK

Source: HSBC

Enterprise value (USDm) 15385 Free float (%) 33 Market cap (USDm) 13,358 Market cap (HKDm) 103,675

Hold Target price (HKD) 16.70 Share price (HKD) 18.50 Upside/Downside (%) -9.7 2014 a 2015 e 2016 e Dec HSBC EPS 0.07 0.08 0.10 HSBC PE 33.4 28.4 23.6 **Performance 1M** 3M 12M Absolute (%) -3.6 -11.5 Relative[^] (%)

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This report must be read with the disclosures and the analyst certifications in the Disclosure appendix, and with the Disclaimer, which forms part of it



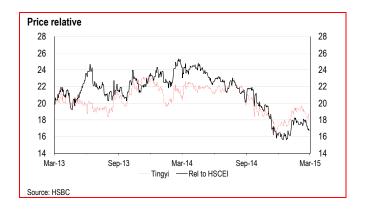
Financials & valuation

Financial statements				
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e
Profit & loss summary (US	Dm)			
Revenue	10,238	10,408	11,137	12,042
EBITDA	1,197	1,356	1,545	1,699
Depreciation & amortisation	-463	-515	-532	-540
Operating profit/EBIT	733	841	1,012	1,15
Net interest	-47	-39	-39	-39
PBT	694	811	983	1,12
HSBC PBT	694	811	983	1,12
Taxation	-209	-243	-295	-33
Net profit	400	476	575	66
HSBC net profit	400	476	575	66
Cash flow summary (USDn	n)			
Cash flow from operations	670	1,404	1,258	1,386
Capex	-1,480	-700	-700	-70
Cash flow from investment	-1,480	-700	-700	-70
Dividends	-200	-238	-287	-33
Change in net debt	1,019	-466	-271	-35
FCF equity	-817	695	547	673
Balance sheet summary (l	JSDm)			
Intangible fixed assets	897	897	897	89
Tangible fixed assets	5,860	6,045	6,213	6,366
Current assets	2,343	2,860	3,176	3,59
Cash & others	1,183	1,649	1,920	2,27
Total assets	9,206	9,907	10,391	10,96
Operating liabilities	2,283	2,655	2,738	2,84
Gross debt	2,629	2,629	2,629	2,62
Net debt	1,446	979	709	35
Shareholders funds	3,034	3,272	3,560	3,89
Invested capital	5,634	5,497	5,628	5,73

Net debt	1,446	979	709	353
Shareholders funds	3,034	3,272	3,560	3,890
Invested capital	5,634	5,497	5,628	5,730
Ratio, growth and per share	e analysis			
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e
Y-o-y % change				
Revenue	-6.4	1.7	7.0	8.1
EBITDA	0.0	13.3	13.9	10.0
Operating profit	-1.5	14.7	20.3	13.9
PBT	-4.1	16.9	21.3	14.5
HSBC EPS	-2.0	17.6	20.6	14.9
Ratios (%)				
Revenue/IC (x)	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1
ROIC	10.2	10.6	12.7	14.2
ROE	13.5	15.1	16.8	17.7
ROA	5.9	6.2	7.1	7.6
EBITDA margin	11.7	13.0	13.9	14.1
Operating profit margin	7.2	8.1	9.1	9.6
EBITDA/net interest (x)	25.4	34.4	39.2	43.1
Net debt/equity	35.3	22.1	14.7	6.7
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.2
CF from operations/net debt	46.4	143.4	177.4	393.0
Per share data (USD)				
EPS reported (fully diluted)	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.12
HSBC EPS (fully diluted)	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.12
DPS	0.36	0.04	0.05	0.06
Book value	0.53	0.58	0.63	0.68

Valuation data				
Year to	12/2014a	12/2015e	12/2016e	12/2017e
EV/sales	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2
EV/EBITDA	13.2	11.3	9.9	8.8
EV/IC	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6
PE*	33.4	28.4	23.6	20.5
P/Book value	4.5	4.1	3.8	3.5
FCF yield (%)	-5.7	4.8	3.8	4.6
Dividend yield (%)	15.0	1.8	2.1	2.4

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



Note: price at close of 20 Mar 2015



Results Review

- ▶ 2014 net profit was down 2% yoy to USD400m and revenue dropped by 6% to USD10.2bn
- ▶ On a semi-annual basis, net profit was down 20% yoy in 2H14 on the back of 14% drop in revenue
- Management declared a final DPS of USD3.57cents, and the dividend payout for 2014 was unchanged at 50%

ingyi - 2014 results summary							
Year to 31 Dec (USDm)	2013	2014	% YoY	1H14	% YoY	2H14	% YoY
Sales	10,941	10,238	-6%	5,504	2%	4,734	-14%
COGS	(7,631)	(7,120)	-7%	(3,794)	0%	(3,326)	-13%
Gross profit	3,310	3,118	-6%	1,710	6%	1,408	-17%
Other net income	216	209	-3%	110	2%	100	-8%
Distibution costs	(2,313)	(2,139)	-8%	(1,105)	-2%	(1,033)	-13%
Admin expenses	(351)	(300)	-15%	(169)	-3%	(131)	-26%
Other operating expenses	(118)	(156)	32%	(70)	51%	(86)	20%
EBIT	744	733	-1%	476	26%	257	-30%
Finance costs	(37)	(47)	26%	(21)	9%	(26)	44%
Share of results of associates	16	7	-55%	9	64%	(2)	-121%
PBT	723	694	-4%	465	28%	229	-36%
Tax	(229)	(209)	-9%	(128)	7%	(81)	-26%
PAT	494	485	-2%	337	38%	148	-41%
Minority	(86)	(84)	-2%	(105)	119%	21	-155%
Net profit	409	400	-2%	232	18%	169	-20%
Margins							
Gross margin	30.3%	30.5%	+0.2ppt	29.9%	+0.1ppt	30.6%	+0.6ppt
EBITDA margin	10.9%	11.7%	+0.8ppt	11.0%	-5.5ppt	10.8%	+0.1ppt
Core EBIT margin	4.8%	5.1%	+0.3ppt	5.0%	-1.7ppt	4.7%	+0.1ppt
Core net margin	3.7%	3.9%	+0.2ppt	3.6%	-0.6ppt	3.8%	+0.2ppt
Key ratios							
Distribution costs as % of sales	21.1%	20.9%	-0.2ppt	20.8%	+1.8ppt	21.4%	-0.0ppt
Adm exp as % of sales	3.2%	2.9%	-0.3ppt	3.2%	+0.1ppt	3.2%	-0.1ppt
Effective tax rate	31.6%	30.1%	-1.5ppt	32.7%	+9.9ppt	30.5%	-5.5ppt

Source: Company data, HSBC



Instant noodle

Instant noodle sales dropped 10% yoy in 2H14, and the decline was much steeper than Uni-President China's -1%. On a quarterly basis, instant noodle revenue was down 18% yoy to USD972m, and management attributed the poor performance to the weak consumption environment and negative impact from the food safety issue in Taiwan, which affected the sell-in and sell-through in the past quarter. As a result, Tingyi's market share decreased slightly from 47.2% in 3Q14 to 46.3% in volume terms, and from 56.4% to 55.6% in value terms. By noodle type, higher-priced bowl noodle declined by 11% yoy in 2H14, which is higher than the decline in the high-end packet noodles (-9%) and mid-end packet noodles (-7%).

Fingyi - Instant noodle sales breakdown						
Revenue (USDm)	2013	2014	1Q14	2Q14	3Q14	4Q14
Bowl	2,066	1,960	568	423	520	449
yoy	10%	-5%	3%	0%	-3%	-19%
High-end packet	1,693	1,601	425	334	452	390
yoy	5%	-5%	0%	-2%	-2%	-17%
Mid-end packet	469	470	127	99	130	114
yoy	17%	0%	17%	1%	2%	-16%
Others	104	107	30	28	30	19
yoy	60%	3%	50%	12%	3%	-37%
Total	4,332	4,138	1,150	884	1,132	972
yoy	9%	-4%	4%	0%	-2%	-18%

Source: Company data, HSBC

Instant noodle gross margin was unchanged at 29.3% in 2H14, but net margin saw a more evident improvement, up 1.7ppt to 9.5% due to cost savings from the removal of the free sausage promotion. This was mirrored in Uni-President China's 2014 results, where instant noodle turned to a small operating profit in 2H from an operating loss in 2013 and 1H14.

Fingyi - Instant noodles income statement, 1Q13-4Q14						
Year to 31 Dec (USDm)	2013	2014	1Q14	2Q14	3Q14	4Q14
Revenue	4,332	4,138	1,150	884	1,132	972
COGS	(3,065)	(2,965)	(828)	(651)	(795)	(692)
Gross profit	1,267	1,172	322	233	337	280
Opex	(776)	(688)	(184)	(151)	(170)	(184)
EBIT	`491	`484	`139	82	`167	` 96
Tax	(154)	(124)	(36)	(24)	(48)	(16)
Net profit	337	`360	103	58	119	`80
%yoy						
Sales	9.4%	-4.5%	4.1%	-0.5%	-1.8%	-18.1%
EBIT	5.8%	-1.4%	-0.9%	4.1%	10.0%	-20.0%
Net profit	4.1%	7.0%	5.1%	2.8%	10.1%	8.2%
Margins						
Gross margin	29.2%	28.3%	29.5%	26.3%	29.8%	28.8%
Operating margin	11.3%	11.7%	12.1%	9.3%	14.8%	9.9%
Net margin	7.8%	8.7%	9.0%	6.6%	10.5%	8.2%
Key ratios						
Opex to sales ratio	17.9%	16.6%	18.5%	17.0%	15.0%	18.9%
Effective tax rate	31.4%	25.6%	25.7%	29.3%	28.7%	16.8%

Source: Company data, HSBC



Beverage

Beverage revenue declined by 18% yoy in 2H14, and this is largely in-line with our expectations. Despite lower PET and costs, Tingyi posted a loss of USD43m for the beverage business in 2H14 due to volume de-leveraging and extra trade promotion, as well as extra operating expenses of USD73m related to the dismissal of Pepsi bottling employees. All four categories (tea, water, juice and carbonated drinks) posted sales decline for 2H14. Among them, juice saw the biggest drop of 40% yoy, compared to UPC which had a sales decrease of 4%. Tingyi's market share in juice has declined in 2014, especially in 3Q and 4Q when it was down around 5ppt yoy to 28.4% and 26.1% respectively, according to Nielsen. For bottled water, sales were down 24% in 2H14 and down 0.6% for the full year, compared to the industry growth of 15% (by value) or 6% (by volume). On a yoy basis, Tingyi's market share decreased by about 4ppt in 3Q14 and 4Q14 to 21.9% and 19.1%, despite remaining the largest player in the market.

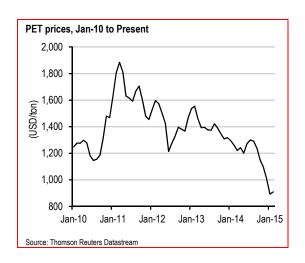
Tingyi - Beverage sales breakdown						
Year to 31 Dec (USDm)	2013	2014	1Q14	2Q14	3Q14	4Q14
Tea	2,292	2,330	723	662	626	319
yoy	25%	2%	26%	1%	-17%	2%
Water	1,141	1,134	207	443	350	134
yoy	27%	-1%	34%	25%	-26%	-16%
Juice	1,340	964	316	303	248	97
yoy	13%	-28%	-8%	-29%	-40%	-41%
Carbonated drinks	1,495	1,373	308	370	505	190
yoy	47%	-8%	-22%	4%	-4%	-14%
Total	6,268	5,801	1,554	1,778	1,729	740
yoy	27%	-7%	6%	-1%	-20%	-14%

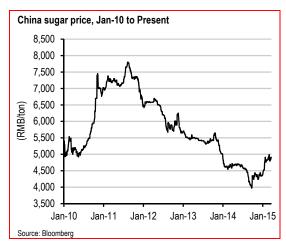
Source: Company data, HSBC

Tingyi - Beverages income statement, 1Q13-4Q14						
Year to 31 Dec (USDm)	2013	2014	1Q14	2Q14	3Q14	4Q14
Revenue	6,268	5,800	1,554	1,778	1,729	739
COGS	(4,340)	(3,949)	(1,056)	(1,162)	(1,151)	(580)
Gross profit	1,927	1,851	499	616	578	159
Opex	(1,729)	(1,631)	(384)	(479)	(475)	(293)
Core EBIT	199	221	115	136	102	(133)
Associates	19	18	5	10	7	(4)
Tax	(63)	(85)	(36)	(33)	(27)	12
Net profit before MI	155	154	84	113	83	(126)
%yoy						
Sales	27.1%	-7.5%	6.3%	-0.5%	-19.9%	-13.8%
EBIT	17.7%	11.1%	150.2%	68.1%	-48.3%	5.2%
Net profit	-46.0%	-0.6%	319.7%	67.9%	-52.0%	20.2%
Margins						
Gross margin	30.8%	31.9%	32.1%	34.6%	33.4%	21.5%
Operating margin	3.2%	3.8%	7.4%	7.7%	5.9%	-18.0%
Net margin	2.5%	2.7%	5.4%	6.4%	4.8%	-17.0%
Key ratios						
Opex to sales ratio	27.6%	28.1%	25.0%	27.0%	27.5%	39.6%
Effective tax rate	31.7%	38.3%	31.6%	24.3%	26.3%	9.0%

Source: Company data, HSBC







Balance sheet

Balance sheet deteriorated in 2H14, with net gearing increased to 12% in Jun-2014 to 48% in Dec-2014. The increase in gearing was mainly used for acquisition of properties for the group's Shanghai operation center and production facilities. Note that Tingyi announced in April 2014 that it would acquire a property company from the younger brother of Tingyi's Chairman (Mr. Wei) at a consideration of USD542m, including USD406m cash and USD136m assumed liability. Despite higher gearing, working capital remained solid with both inventory and receivable turnover unchanged at less than 12 days.

Tingyi – Key liquidity ratios, 2013-14			
Year to 31 Dec (USDm)	2013	2014	
Total debt	1,676	2,629	
Cash and cash equivalents	1,250	1,183	
Net cash/(debt)	(426)	(1,446)	
Net debt/equity	15%	48%	
Inventory days (average)	23	22	
Receivable days (average)	8	9	
Payable days (average)	55	55	
Cash conversion cycle	(24)	(24)	

Source: Company data, HSBC

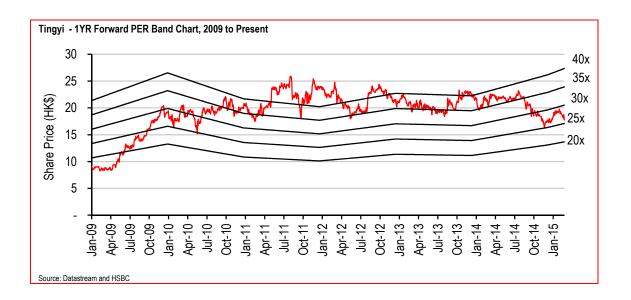


Valuation and risks

We use DCF to value Tingyi as we believe its strong brand positioning and large distribution network should allow the company to generate steady cash flow and returns. For the DCF valuation, we assume beta to be 0.9, with a risk-free rate of 3.5% and risk premium of 6.0%, resulting in a WACC of 8.9%. We set a fair value target price at HKD16.70 based on DCF. This is lower than our prior 12-month TP of HKD17.00 due to lower earnings estimates, and implies a 25.5x 2015e PE. Our target price now represents our assessment of the stock's actual current value.

Risks

Key upside risks to our rating and estimates include: (1) higher-than-expected sales volume or market share gains, (2) a fast turnaround in the Pepsi business, and (3) lower than expected effective tax rate. Key downside risks include: (1) more intense competition which result higher-than-expected A&P spending, (2) weak volume growth, and (3) a sharp recovery in raw material prices.



Tingyi - Earnings revision, 2015-16e			
Year to 31 Dec	2015e	2016e	
Sales	-4.6%	-6.0%	
EBIT	1.3%	-2.7%	
NI	-2.0%	-2.3%	

Source: HSBC research



Disclosure appendix

Analyst Certification

The following analyst(s), economist(s), and/or strategist(s) who is(are) primarily responsible for this report, certifies(y) that the opinion(s) on the subject security(ies) or issuer(s) and/or any other views or forecasts expressed herein accurately reflect their personal view(s) and that no part of their compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or views contained in this research report: Christopher Leung, Alice Chan and Erwan Rambourg

Important disclosures

Equities: Stock ratings and basis for financial analysis

HSBC believes an investor's decision to buy or sell a stock should depend on individual circumstances such as the investor's existing holdings, risk tolerance and other considerations and that investors utilise various disciplines and investment horizons when making investment decisions. Ratings should not be used or relied on in isolation as investment advice. Different securities firms use a variety of ratings terms as well as different rating systems to describe their recommendations and therefore investors should carefully read the definitions of the ratings used in each research report. Further, investors should carefully read the entire research report and not infer its contents from the rating because research reports contain more complete information concerning the analysts' views and the basis for the rating.

From 23rd March 2015 HSBC has assigned ratings on the following basis:

The target price is based on the analyst's assessment of the stock's actual current value, although we expect it to take six to 12 months for the market price to reflect this. When the target price is more than 20% above the current share price, the stock will be classified as a Buy; when it is between 5% and 20% above the current share price, the stock may be classified as a Buy or a Hold; when it is between 5% below and 5% above the current share price, the stock will be classified as a Hold; when it is between 5% and 20% below the current share price, the stock may be classified as a Hold or a Reduce; and when it is more than 20% below the current share price, the stock will be classified as a Reduce.

Our ratings are re-calibrated against these bands at the time of any 'material change' (initiation or resumption of coverage, change in target price or estimates).

Upside/Downside is the percentage difference between the target price and the share price.

Prior to this date, HSBC's rating structure was applied on the following basis:

For each stock we set a required rate of return calculated from the cost of equity for that stock's domestic or, as appropriate, regional market established by our strategy team. The target price for a stock represented the value the analyst expected the stock to reach over our performance horizon. The performance horizon was 12 months. For a stock to be classified as Overweight, the potential return, which equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, including the forecast dividend yield when indicated, had to exceed the required return by at least 5 percentage points over the succeeding 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile*). For a stock to be classified as Underweight, the stock was expected to underperform its required return by at least 5 percentage points over the succeeding 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile*). Stocks between these bands were classified as Neutral.

*A stock was classified as volatile if its historical volatility had exceeded 40%, if the stock had been listed for less than 12 months (unless it was in an industry or sector where volatility is low) or if the analyst expected significant volatility. However, stocks which we did not consider volatile may in fact also have behaved in such a way. Historical volatility was 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 had to move 2.5 percentage points past the 40% benchmark in either direction for a stock's status to change.



Rating distribution for long-term investment opportunities

As of 23 March 2015, the distribution of all ratings published is as follows:

Buy	41%	(30% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Hold	40%	(28% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Sell	19%	(20% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)

For the purposes of the distribution above the following mapping structure is used during the transition from the previous to current rating models: under our previous model, Overweight = Buy, Neutral = Hold and Underweight = Sell; under our current model Buy = Buy, Hold = Hold and Reduce = Sell. For rating definitions under both models, please see "Stock ratings and basis for financial analysis" above.

Share price and rating changes for long-term investment opportunities



Recommendation & price target history					
From	То	Date			
N/A	Overweight	03 October 2012			
Overweight	Neutral	20 May 2013			
Neutral	Underweight	17 November 2014			
Target Price	Value	Date			
Price 1	29.00	03 October 2012			
Price 2	26.40	31 January 2013			
Price 3	24.00	18 March 2013			
Price 4	21.40	20 May 2013			
Price 5	20.40	28 July 2013			
Price 6	24.70	18 November 2013			
Price 7	22.50	02 March 2014			
Price 8	21.50	24 March 2014			
Price 9	25.50	18 August 2014			
Price 10	17.00	17 November 2014			

Source: HSBC



HSBC & Analyst disclosures

Disclosure checklist					
Company	Ticker	Recent price	Price Date	Disclosure	
TINGYI	0322.HK	17.74	23-Mar-2015	4, 6, 7	

Source: HSBC

- 1 HSBC has managed or co-managed a public offering of securities for this company within the past 12 months.
- 2 HSBC expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this company in the next 3 months.
- 3 At the time of publication of this report, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is a Market Maker in securities issued by this company.
- 4 As of 28 February 2015 HSBC beneficially owned 1% or more of a class of common equity securities of this company.
- As of 31 January 2015, this company was a client of HSBC or had during the preceding 12 month period been a client of and/or paid compensation to HSBC in respect of investment banking services.
- 6 As of 31 January 2015, this company was a client of HSBC or had during the preceding 12 month period been a client of and/or paid compensation to HSBC in respect of non-investment banking securities-related services.
- As of 31 January 2015, this company was a client of HSBC or had during the preceding 12 month period been a client of and/or paid compensation to HSBC in respect of non-securities services.
- 8 A covering analyst/s has received compensation from this company in the past 12 months.
- 9 A covering analyst/s or a member of his/her household has a financial interest in the securities of this company, as detailed below.
- 10 A covering analyst/s or a member of his/her household is an officer, director or supervisory board member of this company, as detailed below.
- 11 At the time of publication of this report, HSBC is a non-US Market Maker in securities issued by this company and/or in securities in respect of this company

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