

Wharf REIC (1997.HK)

Robust retail sales momentum extends into 20; Reiterate Buy

1997.HK

12m Price Target: HK\$66.00

Price: HK\$60.55

Upside: 9.0%

We see robust retail sales momentum to extend into 2018E -

- Government reported April retail sales on May 31 after the market close.
 - \square April's growth at +12.3% yoy, was faster than March's 11.5% and was still comparable to 1Q18's +14.4%, respectively. YTD growth now stands at +13.9% yoy.
 - ☐ Sales of jewellery/valuables were the key growth driver at +24.6% yoy, followed by medicines/cosmetics at +17.9% yoy.

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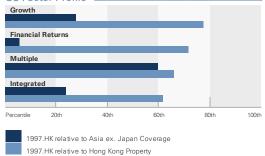
Key Data

Market cap: HK\$183.8bn / \$23.4bn Enterprise value: HK\$233.1bn / \$29.7bn 3m ADTV: HK\$153.6mn / \$19.6mn Hong Kong Hong Kong Property M&A Rank: 3

GS Forecast

	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Revenue (HK\$ mn) New	20,904.0	16,101.4	16,768.9	17,669.3
Revenue (HK\$ mn) Old	20,904.0	16,072.4	16,677.1	17,511.7
EBITDA (HK\$ mn)	15,586.0	12,245.4	12,671.2	13,382.6
EPS (HK\$) New	5.67	2.91	3.07	3.27
EPS (HK\$) Old	5.67	2.90	3.04	3.22
P/E (X)	8.9	20.8	19.7	18.5
P/B (X)	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8
Dividend yield (%)	1.9	3.3	3.5	3.6
FCF yield (%)	(8.0)	3.3	5.1	5.4
	6/17	12/17	6/18E	12/18E
FPS (HK\$)	1 61	4.06	2 11	0.80

GS Factor Profile



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates. See disclosures for details.

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Wharf REIC (1997.HK)

Rating since Apr 25, 2018

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Ratio	ne X	, V/2	HILDT	l n n

	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
P/E (X)	8.9	20.8	19.7	18.5
P/B (X)	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8
FCF yield (%)	(8.0)	3.3	5.1	5.4
EV/EBITDA (X)	12.9	19.0	18.1	16.9
CROCI (%)	4.8	4.0	4.1	4.4
ROE (%)	8.5	4.2	4.4	4.6
Net debt/equity (%)	19.9	20.0	17.9	16.1
Interest cover (X)	15.0	10.2	10.7	11.2
Days inventory outst, sales	18.5	3.8	4.0	3.8
Receivable days	12.7	14.4	13.8	13.1
Days payable outstanding	1,307.1	1,010.6	917.6	874.7
DuPont ROE (%)	8.1	4.1	4.2	4.4
Turnover (X)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Leverage (X)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3

Growth & Margins (%) _

	12/1/	12/ 18E	12/ 19E	12/ 20E
Total revenue growth	24.1	(23.0)	4.1	5.4
EBITDA growth	29.9	(21.4)	3.5	5.6
EPS growth	73.6	(48.7)	5.5	6.5
DPS growth	NM	110.2	4.7	5.6
EBIT margin	73.9	74.1	73.7	74.0
EBITDA margin	74.6	76.1	75.6	75.7
Net income margin	82.4	54.9	55.6	56.2

Price Performance



Source: FactSet. Price as of 31 May 2018 close.

Income Statement (HK\$ mn)

	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Total revenue	20,904.0	16,101.4	16,768.9	17,669.3
Cost of goods sold	(4,494.0)	(3,099.2)	(3,318.9)	(3,481.7)
SG&A	(824.0)	(756.8)	(778.8)	(805.0)
R&D	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other operating inc./(exp.)	_	-	-	-
ESO expense	_	-	-	-
EBITDA	15,586.0	12,245.4	12,671.2	13,382.6
Depreciation & amortization	(144.0)	(311.7)	(311.7)	(311.7)
EBIT	15,442.0	11,933.7	12,359.5	13,070.8
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(1,029.0)	(1,167.4)	(1,160.4)	(1,163.9)
Income/(loss) from associates	82.0	82.0	82.0	82.0
Pre-tax profit	22,160.0	10,773.3	11,281.1	11,988.9
Provision for taxes	(4,267.0)	(1,670.4)	(1,692.2)	(1,798.3)
Minority interest	(675.0)	(267.0)	(267.0)	(267.0)
Preferred dividends	_	_	_	-
Net inc. (pre-exceptionals)	17,218.0	8,836.0	9,321.9	9,923.6
Post-tax exceptionals	_	_	_	-
Net inc. (post-exceptionals)	17,218.0	8,836.0	9,321.9	9,923.6
EPS (basic, pre-except) (HK\$)	5.67	2.91	3.07	3.27
EPS (diluted, pre-except) (HK\$)	5.67	2.91	3.07	3.27
EPS (basic, post-except) (HK\$)	5.67	2.91	3.07	3.27
EPS (diluted, post-except) (HK\$)	5.67	2.91	3.07	3.27
EPS (diluted, excl. ESO) (HK\$)				
DPS (HK\$)	0.95	2.00	2.09	2.21

Balance Sheet (HK\$ mn)	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Cash & cash equivalents	3.076.0	2.227.8	6.214.8	9.627.6
Accounts receivable	635.0	635.0	635.0	635.0
Inventory	156.0	181.6	181.6	181.6
Other current assets	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Total current assets	3,891.0	3,068.5	7,055.5	10,468.3
Net PP&E	262,376.0	264,718.3	264,606.5	264,494.8
Net intangibles	202,370.0	204,716.5	204,000.5	204,434.0
Total investments	6,001.0	6,083.0	6,165.0	6,247.0
Other long-term assets	407.0	407.0	407.0	407.0
Total assets	272.675.0	274.276.7	278.234.0	281,617.1
Accounts payable	8,818.0	8,343.4	8,343.4	8,343.4
Short-term debt	20,800.0	2,000.0	5,400.0	3,500.0
Other current liabilities	2,816.0	1,674.5	2,245.3	1,959.9
Total current liabilities	32,434.0	12,017.9	15,988.6	13,803.2
Long-term debt	24,752.0	43,552.0	40,152.0	42,052.0
Other long-term liabilities	2.521.0	2.521.0	2.521.0	2.521.0
Total long-term liabilities	27,273.0	46,073.0	42,673.0	44,573.0
Total liabilities	59,707.0	58,090.9	58,661.6	58,376.2
Preferred shares				
Total common equity	207,318.0	210,268.9	213,388.4	216,789.8
Minority interest	5,650.0	5,917.0	6,184.0	6,451.0
Total liabilities & equity	272,675.0	274,276.7	278,234.0	281,617.1
Net debt, adjusted	42,476.0	43,324.2	39,337.2	35,924.4
Average capital employed	244,865.5	257,477.0	259,209.8	259,037.4
RNAV	-	277,008.3	286,362.9	-
BVPS (HK\$)	68.28	69.25	70.28	71.40
Cash Flow (HK\$ mn)				
	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Net income	17,218.0	8,836.0	9,321.9	9,923.6
D&A add-back	144.0	311.7	311.7	311.7
Minority interest add-back	675.0	267.0	267.0	267.0
Net (inc)/dec working capital	(12,555.0)	(500.3)	-	-

(7,101.0)

(1,619.0)

(11,001.0)

(11,001.0)

8,438.0

2,046.0

10,484.0

(2,136.0)

(12,620.0)

6,178.4 Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.

(82.0)

8,832.4

(2,654.0)

(2,654.0)

(5,885.1)

(1,141.5)

(7,026.6)

(848.2)

(82.0)

9,818.6

(200.0)

(200.0)

(6,202.4)

(5,631.7)

3,987.0

9,618.6

570.8

(82.0)

10,420.3

(200.0)

(200.0)

(6,522.1)

(285.4)

(6,807.5)

3,412.8

10,220.3

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Other operating cash flow

Capital expenditures

Acquisitions

Divestitures

Inc/(dec) in debt

Total cash flow

Free cash flow

Cash flow from operations

Cash flow from investing

Other financing cash flows

Cash flow from financing

Dividends paid (common & pref)

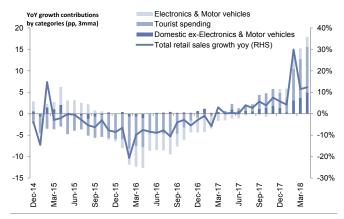
Exhibit 1: HK retail has rebounded by 13.9%yoy up to YTD2018 Hong Kong retail sales growth by segment

(YoY%)	Total	Food	Super- market	Fuel	Clothing	Durables	Dept stores	Valuable	Others
By year									
2010	18.3%	9.6%	5.6%	9.9%	17.3%	26.9%	16.4%	36.1%	12.8%
2011	24.9%	7.2%	12.5%	14.7%	28.0%	28.6%	21.6%	46.6%	17.5%
2012	9.8%	2.8%	10.3%	3.3%	7.6%	19.6%	9.7%	7.7%	9.1%
2013	11.0%	3.5%	6.8%	0.1%	8.3%	3.4%	17.7%	22.9%	9.3%
2014	-0.2%	6.6%	4.6%	-1.4%	4.1%	2.2%	1.3%	-13.7%	6.4%
2015	-3.7%	5.8%	1.3%	-10.5%	-6.7%	6.1%	-4.1%	-15.6%	-2.8%
2016	-8.1%	1.7%	0.8%	-0.4%	-4.6%	-20.9%	-6.2%	-17.2%	-0.4%
2017	2.2%	3.2%	-0.2%	4.0%	0.2%	-3.1%	3.4%	5.2%	5.4%
1Q18	14.4%	8.6%	1.3%	4.9%	16.8%	17.2%	13.2%	22.0%	16.0%
Apr-18	12.3%	3.9%	1.1%	10.0%	6.7%	15.3%	12.6%	24.6%	15.0%
YTD18	13.9%	7.5%	1.2%	6.2%	14.3%	16.8%	13.0%	22.5%	15.7%

Source: CFIC

Exhibit 2: Ongoing recovery in the HK retail market, with the latest trend pointing to c.12% sales growth

Our estimated HK retail sales growth decomposed by three key swing factors



Same-day

countries

China

32.7%

31.7%

36.6%

19.5%

19.1%

-1.2%

-8.7%

2.0%

13.9%

19.5%

15.2%

Other

13.0%

3.4%

-1.7%

-2.5%

-1.8%

-0.4%

-1.9<u>%</u>

-1.3%

Sub-total

25.9%

23.0%

26.7%

15.3%

15.5%

-1.4%

1.6%

11.7%

15.8%

12.7%

Source: CEIC, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

- ... And we think the May 1 Labour Day "mini Golden Week" holidays continue to show positive momentum.
 - According to HKET, during the first 2 days of the Labour Day holiday of 2018, 475k mainland Chinese travellers visited Hong Kong, +23% yoy, and individual traveller arrivals increased by +26% yoy.
 - ☐ According to HKEJ, during the three days of the Labour Day holiday (Apr 29 to May 1), c.599,000 mainland travellers visited Hong Kong, +22% yoy, hitting a six-year high.
 - ☐ According to Hong Kong General Chamber of Pharmacy, the general industry-wide transaction value increased by 20-30% yoy in the Labour Day holidays.

Exhibit 3: Mainland visitors arrival levels are hitting an all-time high since 2014 Visitor arrivals growth by mainland Chinese/others

Total visitors arrivals By category Overnight Mainland Other Mainland Other Mainland (YoY %) China countries **Total** China countries Sub-total By year 2010 26.3% 14.7% 21.8% 20.8% 15.8% 18.7% 2011 16.4% 11.1% 23.9% 3.6% 16.5% 3.7% 2012 24.2% -0.8% 16.0% 11.1% -0.6% 6.5% 2013 11.7% 16.7% 13.1% -1.0% 8.0% 2014 16.0% 0.3% 12.0% 11.6% 1.4% 8.2% 2015 -3.0% -0.9% -2.5% -5.7% 0.0% -3.9% -4.5% -3.5% 5.7% -0.5% 2016 3.1% 2017 3.9% 1.1% 3.2% 6.7% 1.9% 5.0% 1Q2018 12.6% 0.3% 9.6% 10.5% 0.9% 7.2% 11.0% 8.9% 5.7% Apr-18 15.2% -0.7% 0.0% YTD2018 13.2% 0.0% 10.0% 10.1% 0.7% 6.8%

Source: CEIC

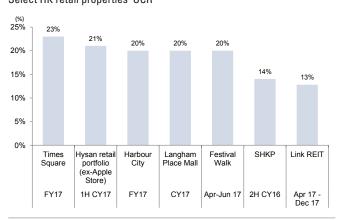
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- As retail sales growth is being driven largely by tourist/luxury spending, we expect Wharf REIC's tenant sales growth to continue its path to outperform the broader market.
 - □ Wharf REIC's operating data announcement in mid-May showed 37%/23% tenant sales growth yoy in Harbour City and Times Square in 1Q18, an acceleration from 2017's 9.0%/1.2%, respectively, and much above the overall HK retail market growth of 14.3% in 1Q.
 - ☐ Management commented that both malls benefited from the improved performance of most categories, especially luxury brands.

Exhibit 4: In 10 2018, HC and TS recorded 37% and 23% YoY growth in sales respectively, both outperforming overall HK retail sales Wharf's REIC portfolio tenant sales growth vs overall market



Exhibit 5: For 4017 alone, Harbour City and Times Square's OCRs have already fallen to 17% and 19%, respectively Select HK retail properties' OCR



Source: Company data

Source: Company data, CFIC

Common investor pushback to our positive stance on Wharf REIC since our initiation on April 25

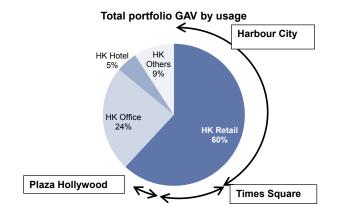
- Sustainability of retail sales growth: We recognize that while most investors are already expecting an ongoing recovery in HK retail market, their expectation on the sustainability of double-digit-growth trajectory into 2H18E and beyond is relatively low. We forecast the volume growth story from visitor arrivals to remain solid, amid upcoming infrastructure additions (e.g. high speed rail and HK-Zhuhai-Macau bridge). However, we do agree that on per capita spending front, currency is likely to remain a swing factor.
- Occupancy-cost-ratio (OCR) started at relatively high levels: While we acknowledge that Wharf REIC's OCR for CY2017 looked relatively high at c.20% and 23% for Harbour City and Times Square, if we were to look at only 4Q17, the ratios have already improved substantially to 17% and 19%, respectively. We see this as positive set-up for OCR to revert back to a relatively comfortable range, amid further improvement in retail sales 2018 YTD versus the historical range around mid-teens' levels, for company to raise retail rentals going forward.
- Turnover rentals as a blackbox: Our view is that we are likely to see likely a positive uptick from turnover rentals (was at c.8% of retail revenue back in 2017 per management) amid broader market retail sales growth 2018 YTD (we expect Wharf REIC's portfolio to outperform this given their exposure to luxury tourist spending)

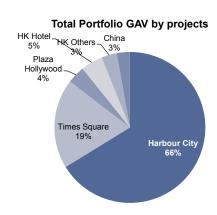
although the exact amount is difficult to quantify. However, we think the correct angle to look at on this subject is from the occupancy-cost-ratio (OCR) perspective in which retail landlords will continue to move up their base rents when the tenants are paying more and more turnover rents, in order to raise the floor of income. In the longer term, if the malls can keep their OCR in a relatively tight range, it would mean that their operators are more or less raising the base rentals alongside with tenant sales growth.

Raising EPS and TP; Reiterate Buy on Wharf REIC

- We raise our NAV/EPS by up to 2% to factor in the current robust run-rate, with retail spot rental growth assumptions up to 8% p.a. between 2018E/19E (from 7% p.a.), with a new 12-month NAV-based target price of HK\$66 (from HK\$65), set at 20% target discount (unchanged) to FY19E NAV. Key risks: Interest rates, new supply, policy changes and evolution of tourist spending behavior.
- We like Wharf REIC for its direct access to giant and quality retail assets in Hong Kong. It is the third-largest listed retail-focused landlord globally, is an owner and operator of key mixed-use investment properties in Hong Kong, with aggregate GAV of c.HK\$283bn and c.12mn sq ft GFA of properties. The flagship retail malls in Hong Kong (Harbour City, Times Square and Hollywood Plaza) account for 59% of GAV and contributed c.70% to total HK IP revenue in 2017. Their retail tenant sales together account for c.9.2% of total HK retail market sales in 2017.
- Compared to key listed HK retailers, we believe that the share price performance of HK retail landlords (Wharf REIC and Hysan Development) has been relatively benign. In addition to Wharf REIC, there are other Buy rated names with sizable HK retail property exposure, including Sino Land and SHKP. There are also Neutral rated names with substantial exposure to HK retail property: Mapletree North Asia Commercial Trust, Fortune REIT, Link REIT, Hysan Development and Hang Lung Proprties.

Exhibit 6: 60% of Wharf REIC is exposed to HK retail property, and 66% is from the crown jewel Harbour City complex Wharf REIC's portfolio mix for our FY19E HK\$286bn worth of assets





Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 7: Retail landlords (index +32% YTD2018) are lagging behind retailers (index+57% YTD2018)

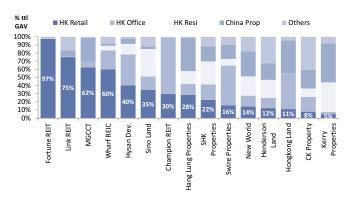
Hong Kong major Retailers and Retail landlords market cap weighted pricing index



Note: Retailers include Chow Tai Food, Sa Sa, and Luk Fook; Retail landlords include Hysan, and Wharf REIC

Source: Datastream

Exhibit 8: Wharf REIC is having 60% of its GAV in HK Retail sector HK PropCo NAV breakdown by property types



Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Rating and pricing information: Fortune REIT (Hong Kong) (N/N, HK\$9.48), Hang Lung Properties (N/N, HK\$17.80), Hysan Development (N/N, HK\$45.35), Link REIT (N/N, HK\$69.40), Mapletree Commercial Trust (N/N, S\$1.57), Sino Land (B/N, HK\$13.58) and Sun Hung Kai Properties (B/N, HK\$126.60)

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

I, Justin Kwok, CFA, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

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Growth is based on a stock's forward-looking sales growth, EBITDA growth and EPS growth (for financial stocks, only EPS and sales growth), with a higher percentile indicating a higher growth company. **Financial Returns** is based on a stock's forward-looking ROE, ROCE and CROCI (for financial stocks, only ROE), with a higher percentile indicating a company with higher financial returns. **Multiple** is based on a stock's forward-looking P/E, P/B, price/dividend (P/D), EV/EBITDA, EV/FCF and EV/Debt Adjusted Cash Flow (DACF) (for financial stocks, only P/E, P/B and P/D), with a higher percentile indicating a stock trading at a higher multiple. The **Integrated** percentile is calculated as the average of the Growth percentile, Financial Returns percentile and (100% - Multiple percentile).

Financial Returns and Multiple use the Goldman Sachs analyst forecasts at the fiscal year-end at least three quarters in the future. Growth uses inputs for the fiscal year at least seven quarters in the future compared with the year at least three quarters in the future (on a per-share basis for all metrics).

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Justin Kwok, CFA: Hong Kong Property.

Hong Kong Property: Champion REIT, China Lodging Group, CK Asset Holdings Ltd, eHi Car Services, Fortune REIT (Hong Kong), Hang Lung Properties, Henderson Land, Hongkong Land, Hysan Development, Kerry Properties, Link REIT, Mapletree Greater China Commercial, New World Development, Shangri-La Asia, Sino Land, Sun Hung Kai Properties, Swire Properties, Wharf REIC.

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Global	35%	53%	12%	63%	57%	51%

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