West China Cement (2233.HK)

Earnings Review: 1H18 above expectations; deteriorating regional S/D imposes risk on price protection

2233.HK	12m Price Target: HK\$1.60	Price: HK\$1.39	Upside: 15.1%
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West China Cement 1H18 NP was Rmb647mn or EPS of Rmb0.119. up 197% YoY. Excluding one-off items including FX loss, recurring net profit was Rmb679mn, or EPS-recurring of Rmb0.125, up 259% YoY, above GS estimates and in line with 50% of the FY Bloomberg consensus, driven by strong unit profit improvement, higher VAT rebate and income from loans receivable (20% of the earnings in our estimates). WCC declared Rmb0.012/sh interim dividend, which implies a 10% payout ratio (versus nil in 1H17).

- WCC reported sales volume of cement and clinker of 8.2mnt for 1H18, down 6.5% YoY, behind our expectation. Sales volume in Shaanxi, accounting for 83% of the total sales, dropped 7.7% YoY to 6.8mnt. The company's cement capacity reached 29.2mnt as of end of 1H18, yet with low capacity utilization in Shaanxi (71%), Guanzhong (49%), Xinjiang (36%) and Guizhou (65%). Unit gross profit for cement and clinker reached Rmb113/t (Rmb51/t for 1H17), up 120% YoY, as strong ASP (Rmb313/t up 31% YoY) more than offset the higher unit cost. We estimated the implied unit GP for 2Q18 reached Rmb123/t. Unit COGS was Rmb200/t, up 6% YoY, mainly driven by higher coal price, combined with lower energy efficiency (unit clinker coal consumption increased by 8% YoY, likely due to lower capacity utilization). Unit SG&A increased 16% YoY to Rmb20/t in 1H18, 10% above our expectation.
- Non-core income has increased by nearly Rmb90mn YoY, including higher VAT rebate and interests from loans receivable in our estimates. We estimate the unit VAT rebate on low-grade cement has risen from Rmb21/t in 1H17 to Rmb32/t in 1H18. We estimate that loans receivable (loans provided by WCC to its upstream suppliers or downstream customers) reached Rmb1.2bn as of mid of 2018, and contributed to Rmb50-60mn

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Key Data

Market cap: HK\$7.5bn / \$960.1mn Enterprise value: HK\$9.0bn / \$1.1bn 3m ADTV: HK\$22.7mn / \$2.9mn China China Basic Materials M&A Rank: 2

GS Forecast

	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Revenue (Rmb mn) New	4,760.0	5,580.6	4,640.5	4,571.2
Revenue (Rmb mn) Old	4,760.0	4,929.9	4,303.1	4,247.2
EBITDA (Rmb mn)	1,941.6	2,678.2	2,020.1	2,003.9
EPS (Rmb) New	0.13	0.26	0.17	0.18
EPS (Rmb) Old	0.13	0.16	0.16	0.16
P/E (X)	7.5	4.7	7.0	6.9
P/B (X)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Dividend yield (%)	0.0	2.1	6.4	5.7
CROCI (%)	22.5	17.2	12.9	18.8

12/17

0.09

6/18

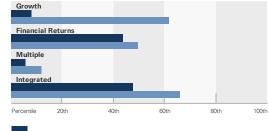
0.12

12/18E

0.14

EPS (Rmb)





^{2233.}HK relative to Asia ex. Japan Coverage 2233.HK relative to China Basic Materials

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

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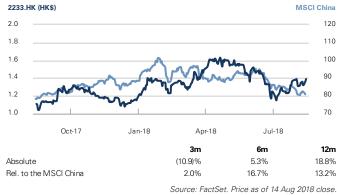
Neutral

West China Cement (2233.HK) Rating since Nov 20, 2017

Ratios & Valuation

	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
P/E (X)	7.5	4.7	7.0	6.9
P/B (X)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
FCF yield (%)	25.3	18.8	21.2	44.4
EV/EBITDA (X)	4.6	2.9	3.4	2.1
CROCI (%)	22.5	17.2	12.9	18.8
ROE (%)	11.4	19.5	11.7	11.1
Net debt/equity (%)	34.5	14.8	2.1	(26.8)
Interest cover (X)	4.7	18.4	11.0	12.0
Days inventory outst, sales	36.2	28.5	33.2	32.4
Receivable days	51.0	44.4	49.6	45.3
Days payable outstanding	108.9	112.7	114.2	104.8
DuPont ROE (%)	10.7	17.8	11.2	10.6
Turnover (X)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Leverage (X)	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.2
Growth & Margins (%)				
	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Total revenue growth	28.0	17.2	(16.8)	(1.5)
EBITDA growth	75.7	37.9	(24.6)	(0.8)
EPS growth	6,787.3	98.0	(32.6)	1.3
DPS growth	NM	197.9	(10.0)	26.7
EBIT margin	24.7	34.7	28.3	28.3
EBITDA margin	40.8	48.0	43.5	43.8
Net income margin	14.9	25.2	20.5	21.0

Price Performance _



Income Statement (Rmb mn)

Income Statement (Kmb mn)				
	12/17	12/18E	12/19E	12/20E
Total revenue	4,760.0	5,580.6	4,640.5	4,571.2
Cost of goods sold	(3,574.1)	(3,566.2)	(3,355.1)	(3,294.9)
SG&A	(315.6)	(345.7)	(338.4)	(338.4)
R&D	-	-	-	-
Other operating inc./(exp.)	303.7	269.6	364.1	357.0
EBITDA	1,941.6	2,678.2	2,020.1	2,003.9
Depreciation & amortization	(767.6)	(739.8)	(709.0)	(709.0)
EBIT	1,174.0	1,938.4	1,311.1	1,294.9
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(214.5)	(64.4)	(61.9)	(35.6)
Income/(loss) from associates	16.0	24.0	26.4	29.1
Pre-tax profit	975.6	1,898.0	1,275.7	1,288.3
Provision for taxes	(248.0)	(471.3)	(316.7)	(319.9)
Minority interest	(15.4)	(18.0)	(8.8)	(6.4)
Preferred dividends	-	-	-	-
Net inc. (pre-exceptionals)	710.8	1,408.7	950.1	962.0
Post-tax exceptionals	-	-	-	-
Net inc. (post-exceptionals)	710.8	1,408.7	950.1	962.0
EPS (basic, pre-except) (Rmb)	0.13	0.26	0.17	0.18
EPS (diluted, pre-except) (Rmb)	0.13	0.26	0.17	0.18
EPS (basic, post-except) (Rmb)	0.13	0.26	0.17	0.18
EPS (diluted, post-except) (Rmb)	0.13	0.26	0.17	0.18
DPS (Rmb)	0.03	0.08	0.07	0.09
Div. payout ratio (%)	19.8	29.8	39.8	49.8

Balance Sheet (Rmb mn) 12/17 12/18E 12/19E 12/20E Cash & cash equivalents 1.452.4 1.953.2 2.784.3 3.199.9 Accounts receivable 670.1 688.0 572.1 563.6 436.2 435.2 409.4 402.1 Inventory Other current assets 437.3 626.2 626.2 0.0 Total current assets 2,995.9 3,702.7 4,392.1 4,165.5 6,388.6 Net PP&F 7,137.4 6,897.6 5.779.6 Net intangibles 436.7 436.7 436.7 436.7 Total investments 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.101.9 Other long-term assets 1.397.4 1.397.4 6274 11,671.9 12,434.4 12,614.8 11,009.2 Total assets 1.146.7 953.5 Accounts pavable 1.056.4 939.3 Short-term debt 983.6 822.2 778.8 205.1 Other current liabilities 102.3 102.3 102.3 102.3 Total current liabilities 2,142.3 2.071.2 1.834.6 1.246.7 Long-term debt 2,756.5 2,304.2 2,182.5 574.9 Other long-term liabilities 144 5 144 5 144 5 144 5 Total long-term liabilities 2,900.9 2,448.7 2,327.0 719.4 Total liabilities 5,043.2 4,519.9 4,161.6 1,966.1 Preferred shares 6,578.7 7,846.5 8,376.3 8,959.9 Total common equity Minority interest 68.0 76.8 83.2 50.0 Total liabilities & equity 11,671.9 12,434.4 12,614.8 11,009.2 13,193.0 12,916.6 Gross cash invested (ex cash) 12.577.4 13.444.5 Net debt, adjusted 2.287.7 1.173.2 177 1 (2.419.8) Average capital employed 8,748.6 9,002.1 8,859.0 7,626.8 BVPS (Rmb) 1.21 1 45 1.54 1.65 Cash Flow (Rmb mn) _ 12/17 12/18E 12/19E 12/20E Net income 710.8 1,408.7 950.1 962.0 D&A add-back 767.6 739.8 709.0 709.0 18.0 Minority interest add-back 15.4 8.8 6.4 (411.1) Net (inc)/dec working capital (825.7) (51.5) 627.9 Other operating cash flow 1,103.9 (0.0) 770.0 Cash flow from operations 1,772.0 1,755.4 1,616.4 3,075.3 Capital expenditures (410.6)(500.0)(100.0)(200.0)Acquisitions Divestitures _ _ Others (845.2) (100.0) Cash flow from investing (1,255.8) (500.0) (200.0) Dividends paid (common & pref) (141.0)(420.2) (378.4) Inc/(dec) in debt (273.0) (613.6) (165.1) (2,181.3) Other financing cash flows (123.4) 0.0 0.0 0.0 (585.4) (2.559.7) Cash flow from financing (396.3)(754.6)Total cash flow 106.7 500.8 831.1 415.6 Free cash flow 2,975.3 1.361.4 1.255.4 1.416.4

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.

interest income or 6% of EBIT in 1H18. Aggregate business failed to jump start in 1H18, due to environmental approvals. Management expects one of the three lines of a total of 15mnt to gradually ramp up in late 2018, and contribute 1.5mnt in output in 2018E and 8.0mnt in 2019E, much behind the prior schedule.

 Working capital has improved on lower A/R days. The A/R days was 44 days (62 days in 1H17), down 29%. As of end of 1H18, net gearing was at 29%, 8% lower versus end of 2017.

We expect margin correction to start in 2H18E and continue in 2019E, in the context of continued weakening construction demand, combined with deteriorating utilization (55-60% in our estimates in the region). We expect WCC unit gross profit to average Rmb101/t in 2H18E, versus Rmb113/t in 1H18, and current margin of Rmb110-120/t, and further soften to Rmb75/t in 2019E.

Estimates revised upwards and target unchanged: We revise up net profit estimates by 58% for 2018E, and 8% for 2019E (and core earnings up by 51% for 2018E but down 5% for 2019E), to reflect higher unit gross profit in 2018E and 2019E than prior assumptions, the higher VAT rebate and interest income, and partly offset by lower aggregate profit. We expect the unit gross profit of WCC to reach Rmb75/t in 2019E, nearly 30% lower YoY versus an average Rmb107/t for 2018E. Our 12-month target price remains unchanged at HK\$1.60, based on a weighted average target price calculation which includes 1) an 85% weighting to a fundamental value of HK\$1.6, derived from 2019E P/B of 0.90x with a unit GP assumption of Rmb75/t; 2) a 15% weighting to an M&A value of HK\$1.7, based on a 2019E P/B of 0.96x and unit GP assumption of Rmb80/t. The higher unit GP under the M&A scenario is in line with the high end of the range for cement in a good cycle and also reflects the potential for higher pricing power. Our target price implies 8.0x PE for 2019E.

Key risks: 1) better-/worse-than-expected cement prices driven by industry supply-demand balance that could swing on demand uncertainty, government supply policies; 2) greater-/weaker-than-expected cost pressure from coal, power and other raw materials; and 3) slower-/faster-than-expected execution on PC32.5 elimination.

Exhibit 1: 1H18 results summary - WCC

		1H18A	1H17A	YoY	1H18E	AvE
Total revenue	Rmb mn	2,602	2,112	23%	2,188	19%
COGS	Rmb mn	(1,635)	(1,645)	-1%	(1,599)	2%
Gross Profit	Rmb mn	966	467	107%	589	64%
Other revenue/gains	Rmb mn	143	63	128%	89	61%
Sales & dist	Rmb mn	(26)	(24)	11%	(25)	3%
Admin	Rmb mn	(137)	(127)	8%	(136)	1%
Other op expenses	Rmb mn	(43)	39	n.a.		
Share of associate	Rmb mn	12	7	63%	12	2%
Operating Profit	Rmb mn	915	426	115%	528	73%
Finance costs	Rmb mn	(42)	(120)	-65%	(80)	-48%
Income taxes	Rmb mn	(217)	(81)	169%	(114)	90%
Minorities	Rmb mn	(10)	(7)	35%	(4)	127%
Net profit	Rmb mn	647	218	197%	330	96%
One-off	Rmb mn	(43)	39	n.a.		
NP-recurring	Rmb mn	679	189	259%	330	106%
NP-core	Rmb mn	534	121	342%	266	101%
EPS	Rmb/sh	0.119	0.040	196%	0.061	96%
EPS-recurring	Rmb/sh	0.125	0.035	259%	0.061	106%
Sales volume	mnt	8.2	8.8	-7%	8.884	-8%
ASP	Rmb/t	313	239	31%	246	27%
COGS/t	Rmb/t	200	188	6%	180	11%
GP/t	Rmb/t	113	51	120%	66	71%
Unit SG&A	Rmb/t	20	17	16%	18	10%
EBIT/t	Rmb/t	93	34	172%	59	57%
EBITDA/t	Rmb/t	127	71	80%	93	37%
AR days	days	44	62	-29%		
AP days	days	75	80	-7%		
Inv days	days	57	58	-2%		
Net debt	Rmb mn	2,064	2,265	-9%		
Net gearing	%	29%	37%	-8%		

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 2: Key assumptions and financials - WCC

Key assumptions and fin	ancials - W <u>CC</u>						
WEST CHINA CEMENT		2015A	2016A	2017A	2018E	2019E	2020E
Eq cement capacity-total	mnt	29.4	29.4	29.4	29.4	29.4	29.4
Eq cement capacity-attri	mnt	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6
Sales volume	mnt	17.1	17.8	19.1	18.0	17.1	17.1
уоу	%	-3%	4%	7%	-6%	-5%	0%
ASP	Rmb/t	199	206	247	305	271	267
Unit COGS	Rmb/t	172	169	185	198	196	192
Coal price	Rmb/t	311	326	491	494	484	454
Unit SG&A	Rmb/t	18	16	17	19	20	20
Unit gross profit	Rmb/t	27	37	62	107	75	75
Unit EBIT	Rmb/t	9	21	45	88	55	55
Unit EBITDA	Rmb/t	42	57	79	122	90	89
	US\$/t	6.6	8.6	11.4	18.6	13.2	13.1
Net financing cost	Rmb/t	12.7	14.0	11.3	10.4	8.7	2.1
Unit NP	Rmb/t	(9.9)	5.2	25.0	62.9	41.0	45.6
EBIT-recurring	Rmb mn	255	627	1,104	2,006	1,338	1,324
EBITDA-recurring	Rmb mn	814	1,275	1,872	2,746	2,047	2,033
Net profit	Rmb mn	(310)	10	711	1,409	950	962
Net profit-recurring	Rmb mn	(90)	205	647	1,441	950	962
Net profit-core	Rmb mn	(170)	92	478	1,134	702	782
EPS	Rmb/sh	(0.062)	0.002	0.131	0.260	0.175	0.177
EPS-recurring	Rmb/sh	(0.018)	0.038	0.119	0.266	0.175	0.177
EPS-core	Rmb/sh	(0.034)	0.017	0.088	0.209	0.129	0.144
Net debt	Rmb mn	3,122	2,667	2,288	1,173	177	(2,420)
Operating cash flow	Rmb mn	474	1,313	1,772	1,755	1,616	3,075
Investing cash flow	Rmb mn	(772)	(170)	(1,256)	(500)	(200)	(100)
Free cash flow	Rmb mn	(298)	1,144	516	1,255	1,416	2,975
BV	Rmb/sh	1.18	1.08	1.21	1.45	1.54	1.65
ROE	%	-5.7%	0.2%	11.4%	19.5%	11.7%	11.1%
ROE-recurring	%	-1.5%	3.5%	9.8%	18.4%	11.3%	10.7%
ROIC	%	-0.5%	0.5%	8.7%	13.8%	9.0%	9.4%
Net debt/equity	%	53.3%	45.5%	34.8%	15.0%	2.1%	-27.0%

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 3: Earnings and valuation sensitivity - W

NP	EPS	ROE	Implied	Implied PE
recurring	recurring		Valuation	@current price
Rmb mn	Rmb/sh	%	HK\$.sh	х
470	0.087	6.0%	0.88	13.7
744	0.137	9.1%	1.32	8.7
1019	0.188	12.1%	1.72	6.3
1293	0.238	14.8%	2.09	5.0
1560	0.287	17.4%	2.43	4.1
	recurring Rmb mn 470 744 1019 1293	recurring Rmb mn recurring Rmb/sh 470 0.087 744 0.137 1019 0.188 1293 0.238	recurring recurring Rmb mn Rmb/sh % 470 0.087 6.0% 744 0.137 9.1% 1019 0.188 12.1% 1293 0.238 14.8%	recurring recurring Valuation Rmb mn Rmb/sh % HK\$.sh 470 0.087 6.0% 0.88 744 0.137 9.1% 1.32 1019 0.188 12.1% 1.72 1293 0.238 14.8% 2.09

Source: Company data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

We, Trina Chen, Joy Zhang and Yijian Zhang, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect our personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. We also certify that no part of our 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).

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A-share Basic Materials: Aluminum Corp. of China (A), Angang Steel (A), Anhui Conch Cement (A), Baoshan Iron & Steel, BBMG Corp. (A), China Coal Energy (A), China Molybdenum Co. (A), Jiangxi Copper (A), Maanshan Iron & Steel (A), Yanzhou Coal Mining (A), Zijin Mining (A).

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