

Xinyi Glass (XYG) is one of China's largest and most diversified glass producers. While the sales decline in auto and construction glass was mildly disappointing, we focus on the improvement in float glass pricing and margins in our positive view on XYG and we set a new Dec-18 PT of HK\$11.0.

- **Improvement in float glass offset other division** 1H17 sales growth of 13.4% y/y was 13% lower than our expectations due mainly to the weaker-than-expected recovery in auto and construction glass. However, GPM for float glass rose to 30% in 1H17 compared to 22.3% in 1H16, which helped lift overall GPM to 36.4% or 0.8% better than expected. Overall 1H17 NP was 8.8% lower than our expectations. We note that our FY17 EPS estimate was 15% higher than consensus (before the results release) and therefore we do not believe the results would be negatively received by consensus market participants. We maintain our focus on the float glass improvement with 1HFY17 GPM rising to 30% (22.3% in 1HFY16) and we expect an FY17 GPM of 32%.
- **Operational and net profit to reflect a more conservative** We have lowered our sales for FY17 and FY18 by 9% and 7% due to the slower recovery in auto glass and construction glass. Our estimates for float glass remain roughly unchanged. We lower our FY17 and FY18 net profit by 5% and 6%, respectively. Our revised FY17 and FY18 EPS are now 10% and 15% higher than consensus. We set a new Dec-18 PT of HK\$11.0 (prev. Dec-17 PT of HK\$10.5) as the higher PT due to the rollover to Dec-18 year end is offset by earnings downward revisions.
- **Key downside risks** The key downside risks are falling demand for construction glass that could result from a cooling property market in China, and further weakness in PV glass demand from Europe.

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Highlights for analyst meeting

Management positive on float glass demand Management remains positive on the sustainability of float glass demand as well as the current healthy margins. Overall construction is rising and the use of double glaze glass for residential and construction (in order to save energy) should boost demand for many years. XYG also mentioned that the quality and price premium of XYG's float glass allows the company to make superior margins while smaller and technically less sophisticated glass makers make significantly lower margins and have little incentive to expand. While new licenses for float glass facilities are increasingly difficult to obtain in the denser richer parts of Coastal China, XYG will still try to expand in order to capture market share and increase profits longer term.

Core revenue float glass expansion XYG is now planning up to 50% expansion in its float glass capacity from the end of 2017 to the end of 2020. This annualized increase of 14-15% is more aggressive than the average 8-9% CAGR from 2015 to 2016. They did not disclose the exact location of the new expansion (up to 8 new lines) but we expect three quarters to be in China and the rest in Malaysia and SE Asia. It is also uncertain how XYG will be able to obtain new licenses and land for expansion and we look forward to more details in the ultimate location for such expansion to see if it will trigger any oversupply or price declines.

Production in Malaysia on schedule The company commenced its first float glass and first solar glass lines in Malaysia in late 2016 / early 2017. Management is satisfied with the performance of these lines and mentioned that the production cost is currently cheaper in Malaysia. Management has also planning to add new float and solar production lines in Malaysia over the coming years.

Highlights

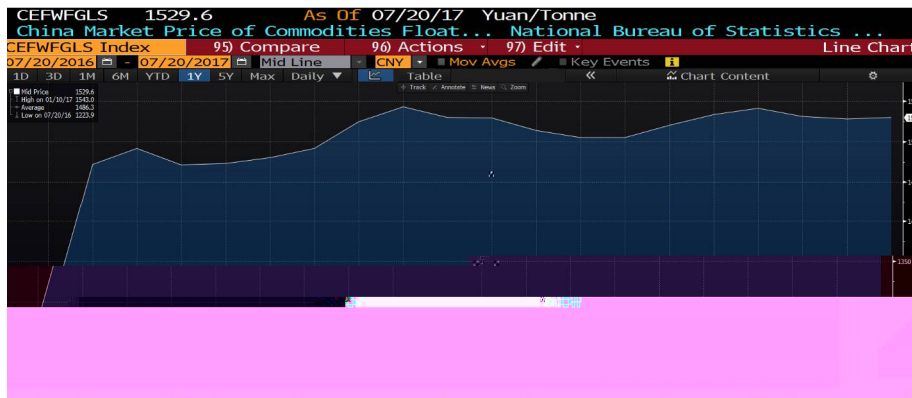
Key messages

1H17 Sales growth of 13.4% y/y was 13% lower than our expectations due mainly to weaker than expected recovery in auto and construction glass. However, GPM for float glass rose to 30% in 1H17 compared to 22.3% in 1H16 which helped lift overall GPM to 36.4% or 0.8% better than expected. Overall 1h17 NP was 8.8% lower than our expectations. We note that our FY17 EPS estimate was 15% higher than consensus (before the results release) and therefore we do not believe that the results would be negatively received by consensus market participants.

- **Auto glass sales fell as expected** We have seen a 6% y/Y drop in 1H17 auto glass sales as depreciation of many export currencies against the HK\$ dragged on sales. In addition, auto glass sales was weak in 2016 due to 3 main factors a) Largest customer PGW in the US had an ownership change mid-2016 and the change in management disrupted purchases from XYG b) a new anti-dumping duty from Brazil resulted in a drop in sales to that country (<3% of auto glass sales) c) rising USD resulted in many emerging markets customers buying less. These negative factors are still hurting sales growth in 1H17.
- **Construction glass sales down** Sales of construction glass were down 2.7% Y/Y in 1H17 after a 3% drop in sales in 2016. Sales would have been up low single digits in Rmb terms. We look for a seasonally better 2H17 to help achieve flat 2017 y/y sales growth.

- float glass prices remain relatively stable. XYG achieved a GPM of 27% in 2016 when the glass price(proxy price below – 4.8 mm construction float glass) was around RMB 1,300 per ton. The average price in 2017 was RMB 1,500 per ton with an insignificant change in cost in 1H17 compared to 2016. This is the main reason for the 1H17 GPM of 30% and we currently expect 32% GPM for FY17.

China Market Price of Commodities Float Glass



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valuation and sensitivity analysis

DCF valuation

DCF valuation

Our Dec-18 PT is based on a DCF valuation that assumes a market risk premium of 6.0% and a risk free rate of 4.2% (yield on 10-year government notes in China). We have assumed a beta of 1.3 (Bloomberg Beta is 1.3). Accordingly, WACC is assumed at 11.4%. We have estimated free cash flow for XYG until 2020 and assume a terminal growth rate of 3%. The terminal growth is based on the annual growth rate expected in 2020 (the final year of the estimate period) subject to a minimum of 3% and a maximum of 6% depending on the nature of the industry and the level of maturity in China.

We also analyzed the DCF price sensitivity to WACC, and the terminal multiple.

DCF valuation

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Investment Thesis

Initial

Xinyi (Overweight, Price Target HK\$11.00)

Investment Case

We believe Xinyi is China's most diversified glass conglomerate. The defensive auto glass aftermarket business and the advanced low-emission construction glass business continued to do well, with stable growth and steady margins. The key driver for growth in the rest of this year is the recovery in margins for the float glass business. In the past, we have seen peak margins for float glass hit 40% when the market is in short supply. We could see margins recover when demand improves, as new supply has slowed to a trickle since the beginning of 2014.

Valuation

Our Dec-18 PT is based on a DCF valuation that assumes a market risk premium of 6.0% and a risk-free rate of 4.2% (the yield on 10-year government notes in China). We assume a beta of 1.3 (Bloomberg beta is 1.3). Accordingly, WACC is assumed at 11.4%. We estimate free cash flow for XYG until 2020 and assume a terminal growth rate of 3.0%. The terminal growth is based on the annual growth rate expected in 2020 (the final year of the estimate period), subject to a minimum of 3% and a maximum of 6%, depending on the nature of the industry and the level of maturity in China.

Key Risks

Key downside risks include falling demand for construction glass, which may result from a cooling property market in China, and further weakness in PV glass demand from Europe.



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Source: Bloomberg, Reuters Global Fundamentals, IBES CONSENSUS, JPMorgan Quantitative & Derivative Strategy

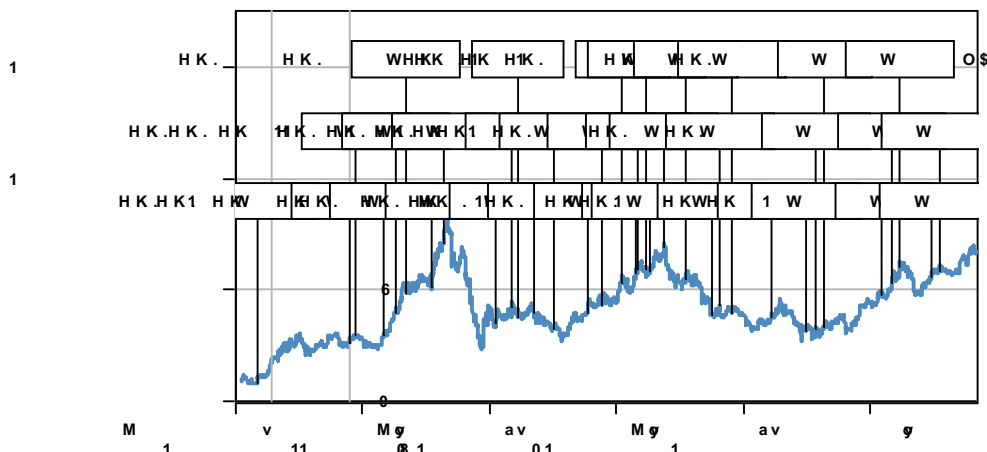
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