CMB International Securities | Equity Research | Company Update

Xtep (1368 HK)

Solid turnaround to drive re-rating

We expect Xtep's retail sales growth to remain fast with healthy inventory level, its GP margin to bottom out and drags from new brands to narrow in FY21E. Therefore, we find its risk reward attractive and expect a further re-rating. Maintain BUY and raise TP to HK\$5.84, based on an unchanged 14x FY22E P/E. It is trading at 12x/9x FY21E/22E P/E.

- FY20 net profit beat, thanks to better cost control. Xtep reported 29% YoY decline in net profit in FY20E, beating CMBI/ BBG est. by 15%/ 13%, mostly due to lower than expected A&P and D&A expenses, despite slight miss in GP margin. Noted that, excluding one-off gains of subsidiary in 2H19 and Supra brand in 2H20, net profit in 2H20 would have increased by 24% YoY, which significantly improved from 47% YoY drop in 1H20.
- Retail sales surged by 50% YoY in Jan-Feb 2021 (also 5% increase vs 2019 level). Retail sales growth in Jan-Feb 2021 accelerated to 50% YoY, on track to beat CMBI est. of 31% growth in 1Q21 and way faster than HSD in 4Q20. Such impressive growth, in our view, was not only driven by 1) favorable weather, but also 2) strong e-commerce momentum, 3) upgrades in products (e.g. launch of signature running shoes "160X" equipped with carbon fiber plate) and marketing (e.g. crossover with Shaolin/ 少林 and Jiang Ziya/ 姜子牙) and 4) sales area growth as more larger sized stores being opened. Xtep is confident to achieve 10-15% retail sales growth for core brand in FY21E-23E.
- Improving retail discounts and inventory level. Retail discounts in Jan-Feb 2021 also improved to just ~30% off, vs 30% to 35% off in 4Q20. Company is expecting its channel inventory level to normalize to 4-4.5 months by FY21E, vs less than 5 months in 4Q20.
- Less drags from the new brands in FY21E. For Sauconcy, the Company is confident on its potential thanks to highly positive feedbacks from professional runners in FY20 and it plans to open 30-50 new stores with an initiate losses of ~RMB 50mn in FY21E. For Palladium, 30-50 self-owned stores will be opened in FY21E, while K-Swiss will not have large scale expansion before FY22E. All in all, the associated losses for new brands and JVs should narrow in FY21E vs FY20.
- Maintain BUY and raised TP to HK\$ 5.84. We revised up our FY21E/ 22E EPS estimates by 9%/ 7%, to factor in: 1) faster-than-expected Xtep core brand growth, better-than-expected GP margin and opex, such as A&P for marathons. Given attractive valuation of 12x/ 9x FY21E/ 22E P/E, we maintain BUY and raised TP to HK\$ 5.84, based on an unchanged 14x FY22E P/E.

Earnings Summary

(YE 31 Dec)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue (RMB mn)	8,183	8,172	9,366	10,679	12,057
YoY growth (%)	28.2	(0.1)	14.6	14.0	12.9
Net income (RMB mn)	728	513	671	863	1,051
EPS (RMB)	0.302	0.206	0.269	0.346	0.422
YoY growth (%)	2.3	(31.8)	30.9	28.5	21.8
Consensus EPS (RMB)	n/a	n/a	0.270	0.320	n/a
P/E (x)	11.0	15.2	11.5	8.9	7.3
P/B (x)	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Yield (%)	5.4	3.8	5.2	6.7	8.2
ROE (%)	10.5	7.2	9.0	10.9	12.6
Net gearing (%)	Net cash				

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates



BUY (Maintain)

Target Price	HK\$5.84
(Previous TP	HK\$5.09)
Up/Downside	+33.7%
Current Price	HK\$3.72

China Sportswear Sector

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Stock Data	
Mkt Cap (HK\$ mn)	9,475
Avg 3 mths t/o (HK\$ mn)	27.64
52w High/Low (HK\$)	4.35/2.04
Total Issued Shares (mn)	2,547.0
Source: Bloomberg	

Shareholding Structure

Mr Ding Shui Po & Family	53.89%
Templeton Investments	2.62%
Employee incentive scheme	4.01%
Free Float	39.48%
Source: HKEx	

Share Performance

	Absolute	Relative
1-mth	3.6%	7.8%
3-mth	21.2%	9.2%
6-mth	56.3%	30.0%
12-mth	60.3%	21.6%
Courses Disembe		

Source: Bloomberg

12-mth Price Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Auditor: Ernst & Young

Related Reports

- Xtep (1368 HK, BUY) An impressive 4Q20 to drive further re-rating - 18 Jan 2021
- 2. Xtep (1368 HK, BUY) Core brand's recovery to drive re-rating 12 Nov 2020
- Xtep (1368 HK, HOLD) Better retail trend drags by lower margins - 31 Aug 2020



Results Summary

Figure 1: Results review – Half Year

Half yearly					1H19	2H19	1H20	2H20	2H20E	Actual
(RMB mn)	1H19	2H19	1H20	2H20E	YoY	YoY	YoY	E YoY	CMBI	vs CMBI
Revenue	3,357	4,826	3,679	4,493	23%	32%	10%	-7%	4,430	1%
COGS	(1,860)	(2,773)	(2,190)	(2,784)					(2,698)	
Gross profit	1,497	2,053	1,489	1,709	25%	26%	-1%	-17%	1,733	-1%
GP margins	44.6%	42.5%	40.5%	38.0%					39 .1%	
Other income & gains	138	170	210	98					74	32%
S & D expenses	(637)	(1,082)	(685)	(852)	33%	23%	8%	-21%	(942)	-10%
S & D exp / sales	-19.0%	-22.4%	-18.6%	-19.0%					-21.3%	
Admin expenses	(281)	(625)	(513)	(537)	7%	74%	83%	-14%	(484)	11%
Admin exp / sales	-8.4%	-13.0%	-13.9%	-12.0%					-10.9%	
Other opex	0	0	0	0					0	
Operating profit (EBIT)	717	517	501	417	21%	14%	-30%	-19%	381	10%
OP margins	21.4%	10.7%	13.6%	9.3%					8.6%	
Other items	0	0	0	0					0	
Net finance income	(35)	(76)	(77)	(62)					(38)	65%
Net finance income / sales	-1.1%	-1.6%	-2.1%	-1.4%					-0.9%	
Profit after financing costs	682	441	423	355					343	
Associated coms	(1)	(2)	(5)	(12)					(31)	
Jointly controlled coms	0	0	0	0					0	
Pre-tax profit	681	439	418	344	24%	3%	-39%	-22%	312	10%
Tax	(218)	(172)	(166)	(91)					(112)	
Tax / sales	-6.5%	-3.6%	-4.5%	-2.0%					-2.5%	
Effective tax rate	-32.0%	-39 .1%	-39.6%	-26.5%					-35.8%	
Minority interests	(0)	4	4	(12)					2	
Net profit att.	463	264	248	265	23%	-6%	-46%	1%	198	34%
NP margins	13.8%	5.5%	6.7%	5.9%					4.5%	
Sales by segment										
Mass market	3,357	4,350	3,201	3,900	23%	19%	-5%	-10%	4,091	-5%
Athleisure	0	466	459	541				16%	310	74%
Professional sports	0	10	20	52				417%	29	81%
Total	3,357	4,826	3,679	4,493	23%	32%	10%	-7%	4,430	1%



Figure 2: Results review - Full Year

Figure 2: Results review				FY20	FY21E	FY20E	Actual
Full yearly (RMB mn)	FY19	FY20	FY21E	YoY	YoY	СМВІ	vs CMBI
Revenue	8,183	8,172	9,366	0%	15%	8,109	1%
COGS	(4,632)	(4,973)	(5,558)			(4,887)	
Gross profit	3,550	3,198	3,808	-10%	19%	3,222	-1%
GP margins	43.4%	39.1%	40.7%			39.7%	
Other income & gains	308	307	253			284	8%
S & D expenses	(1,718)	(1,537)	(1,825)	-11%	19%	(1,627)	-6%
S & D exp / sales	-21.0%	-18.8%	-19.5%			-20.1%	
Admin expenses	(906)	(1,050)	(1,095)	16%	4%	(997)	5%
Admin exp / sales	-11.1%	-12.9%	-11.7%			-12.3%	
Other opex	0	0	0			0	
Operating profit (EBIT)	1,234	918	1,140	-26%	24%	881	4%
OP margins	15.1%	11.2%	12.2%			10.9%	
Other items	(2)	(17)	(52)			(36)	
Net finance income	(111)	(140)	(94)			(115)	21%
Net finance income / sales	-1.4%	-1.7%	-1.0%			-1.4%	
Profit after financing costs	1,121	762	995			730	
Associated coms	0	0	0			0	
Jointly controlled coms	0	0	0			0	
Pre-tax profit	1,121	762	995	-32%	31%	730	4%
Tax	(390)	(257)	(318)			(277)	
Tax / sales	-4.8%	-3.1%	-3.4%			-3.4%	
Effective tax rate	-34.8%	-33.7%	-32.0%			-38.0%	
Minority interests	4	(8)	5			7	
Net profit att.	728	513	671	-29%	31%	446	15%
NP margins	8.9%	6.3%	7.2%			5.5%	
Sales by segment							
Mass market	7,707	7,101	8,072	-8%	14%	7,292	-3%
Athleisure	466	999	1,087	114%	9%	769	30%
Professional sports	10	72	207	610%	188%	48	48%
Total	8,183	8,172	9,366	0%	15%	8,109	1%
Courses Company data CMDIC							



Earnings revision

Figure 3: Earnings revision

		New			Old			Diff (%)	
RMB mn	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	9,366	10,679	12,057	9,252	10,204	n/a	1.2%	4.7%	n/a
Gross profit	3,808	4,452	5,072	3,735	4,214	n/a	2.0%	5.7%	n/a
EBIT	1,140	1,376	1,589	1,081	1,320	n/a	5.4%	4.2%	n/a
Net profit att.	671	863	1,051	617	810	n/a	8.9%	6.5%	n/a
Diluted EPS (RMB)	0.269	0.346	0.422	0.248	0.325	n/a	8.9%	6.5%	n/a
Gross margin	40.7%	41.7%	42.1%	40.4%	41.3%	n/a	0.3ppt	0.4ppt	n/a
EBIT margin	12.2%	12.9%	13.2%	11.7%	12.9%	n/a	0.5ppt	-0.1ppt	n/a
Net profit att. margin	7.2%	8.1%	8.7%	6.7%	7.9%	n/a	0.5ppt	0.1ppt	n/a

Source: Company data, CMBIS estimates

Figure 4: CMBIS estimates vs consensus

		CMBIS			Consensus		Diff (%)			
RMB mn	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	
Revenue	9,366	10,679	12,057	9,451	10,712	n/a	-0.9%	-0.3%	n/a	
Gross profit	3,808	4,452	5,072	3,900	4,491	n/a	-2.4%	-0.9%	n/a	
EBIT	1,140	1,376	1,589	1,165	1,425	n/a	-2.1%	-3.5%	n/a	
Net profit att.	671	863	1,051	690	828	n/a	-2.6%	4.3%	n/a	
Diluted EPS (RMB)	0.269	0.346	0.422	0.270	0.320	n/a	-0.2%	8.2%	n/a	
Gross margin	40.7%	41.7%	42.1%	41.3%	41.9%	n/a	-0.6ppt	-0.2ppt	n/a	
EBIT margin	12.2%	12.9%	13.2%	12.3%	13.3%	n/a	-0.1ppt	-0.4ppt	n/a	
Net profit att. margin	7.2%	8.1%	8.7%	7.3%	7.7%	n/a	-0.1ppt	0.4ppt	n/a	



Valuation

Figure 5: Peers valuation table

			12m TP	Price	Up/ Down-	Mkt. Cap	Year	P/E	(x)	P/B	(x)	ROE (%)	3yrs PEG (x)	Yield (%)
Company	Ticker	Rating	(LC)	(LC)	side	(HK\$mn)	End	FY1E	FY2E	FY1E	FY2E	FY1E	FY1E	FY1E
H shares Spo	rtswear													
Xtep Intl	1368 HK	BUY	5.84	3.72	57%	9,475	Dec-20	15.2	11.5	1.0	0.9	7.3	3.2	3.8
Anta Sports	2020 HK	BUY	150.98	125.50	20%	339,268	Dec-19	54.9	36.9	11.7	9.5	23.0	2.3	0.6
Li Ning	2331 HK	BUY	67.66	48.60	39%	120,972	Dec-19	63.8	46.1	11.9	9.7	19.8	2.6	0.4
361 Degrees	1361 HK	NR	n/a	2.14	n/a	4,425	Dec-19	9.2	8.4	0.6	0.5	5.8	1.4	3.8
Topsports	6110 HK	NR	n/a	13.56	n/a	84,089	Feb-20	28.2	22.5	6.6	5.8	28.8	1.8	1.8
Pou Sheng	3813 HK	NR	n/a	1.82	n/a	9,749	Dec-19	21.2	7.5	1.0	0.9	5.6	1.0	0.6
China DX	3818 HK	NR	n/a	0.91	n/a	5,356	Mar-20	5.3	4.9	0.4	0.4	11.8	0.3	10.5
							Avg.	28.3	19.7	4.7	4.0	14.6	1.8	3.1
							Med.	21.2	11.5	1.0	0.9	11.8	1.8	1.8
International Sp	oortswear													
Nike Inc	NKE US	NR	n/a	144.17	n/a	1,764,758	May-20	47.4	36.9	22.1	19.3	28.3	1.2	0.7
Adidas	ADS GY	NR	n/a	287.00	n/a	532,768	Dec-20	37.2	28.6	7.5	6.7	6.5	0.5	1.1
Puma	PUM GY	NR	n/a	90.06	n/a	125,814	Dec-20	52.9	35.6	6.9	6.2	4.4	0.6	0.6
Under Armour	UAA US	NR	n/a	24.01	n/a	77,008	Dec-20	128.4	70.0	6.3	5.7	(28.7)	(0.7)	0.0
Lululemon	LULU US	NR	n/a	312.68	n/a	316,439	Feb-20	68.2	46.7	16.8	14.2	29.2	3.9	0.0
Skechers	SKX US	NR	n/a	42.13	n/a	51,602	Dec-20	21.9	17.0	2.2	2.0	4.1	0.3	0.3
Vf Corp	VFC US	NR	n/a	80.55	n/a	244,993	Mar-21	61.8	26.9	16.0	13.8	(4.3)	2.3	2.4
Columbia	COLM US	NR	n/a	106.85	n/a	55,077	Dec-20	26.7	22.3	3.5	3.1	5.9	0.5	1.0
Wolverine	WWW US	NR	n/a	41.18	n/a	26,372	Jan-21	20.3	17.5	4.2	3.7	(20.8)	(0.1)	1.0
Mizuno Corp	8022 JP	NR	n/a	2381.00	n/a	4,508	Mar-20	n/a	18.2	0.7	0.6	3.4	0.0	2.1
Asics Corp	7936 JP	NR	n/a	2031.00	n/a	27,473	Dec-20	64.9	34.0	2.9	2.8	(11.6)	(0.3)	1.3
							Avg.	53.0	32.1	8.1	7.1	1.5	0.7	1.0
							Med.	50.2	28.6	6.3	5.7	4.1	0.5	1.0

Source: Bloomberg, CMBIS estimates, FY1E and FY2E for Xtep stayed as FY20E and FY21E for comparison

Assumptions

Figure 6: Major assumptions



Major assumptions	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Sales by segment (RMB mn)					
Shoes	4,653	5,047	5,847	6,747	7,737
Apparels	3,344	2,964	3,349	3,751	4,126
Accessories	185	161	169	181	194
Total	8,183	8,172	9,366	10,679	12,057
Sales by segment growth (%)					
Shoes	18.6%	8.5%	15.9%	15.4%	14.7%
Apparels	43.7%	-11.4%	13.0%	12.0%	10.0%
Accessories	41.0%	-12.9%	5.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Total	28.2%	-0.1%	14.6%	14.0%	12.9%
Sales by segment (RMB mn)					
Mass market	7,707	7,101	8,072	8,996	9,912
Athleisure	466	999	1,087	1,223	1,377
Professional sports	10	72	207	461	767
Total	8,183	8,172	9,366	10,679	12,057
Sales by segment growth (YoY)					
Mass market	20.7%	-7.9%	13.7%	11.4%	10.2%
Athleisure	n/a	114.4%	8.8%	12.5%	12.7%
Professional sports	n/a	609.9%	188.4%	122.9%	66.5%
Total	28.2%	-0.1%	14.6%	14.0%	12.9%
Sales network					
Xtep	5,279	4,971	5,021	5,121	5,275
Xtep kids	850	800	856	942	1,036
Oversea stores	250	250	250	300	300
Total	6,379	6,021	6,127	6,363	6,611
GP margins	43.4%	39.1%	40.7%	41.7%	42.1%
Opex breakdown					
A&P / sales	14.4%	11.2%	11.8%	12.0%	12.2%
Staff costs/ sales	11.0%	12.1%	11.9%	12.3%	12.3%
R&D / sales	2.4%	2.7%	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%
D&A / sales	1.7%	2.0%	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Provisions (write backs) / sales	-0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rental / sales	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%	1.1%	1.2%
Selling & distribution costs / sales	21.0%	18.8%	19.5%	19.9%	20.1%
Admin expenses / sales	11.1%	12.9%	11.7%	11.5%	11.1%
Total	32.1%	31.7%	31.2%	31.3%	31.2%
OP margins	15.1%	11.2%	12.2%	12.9%	13.2%
Effective tax rate	34.8%	33.7%	32.0%	31.0%	30.0%
Net profit att. margins	8.9%	6.3%	7.2%	8.1%	8.7%
Net profit att. growth (%)	10.8%	-29.5%	30.9%	28.5%	21.8%

Financial Summary

Income statement						Cash flow summary					
YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	8,183	8,172	9,366	10,679	12,057	EBIT	1,234	918	1,140	1,376	1,589
Footwear	4,653	5,047	5,847	6,747	7,737	D & A	185	317	330	341	345
Apparel	3,344	2,964	3,349	3,751	4,126	Change in working capital	36	327	(313)	(342)	(353)
Accessories	185	161	169	181	194	Income tax paid	(334)	(257)	(318)	(392)	(455)
						Others	(343)	(140)	(94)	(98)	(95)
Cost of goods sold	(4,632)	(4,973)	(5,558)	(6,227)	(6,985)	Net cash from operating	778	1,166	745	885	1,031
Gross profit	3,550	3,198	3,808	4,452	5,072						
Other income	308	307	253	267	277	Capex & investments	(97)	(204)	(140)	(160)	(181)
						Associated companies	(35)	-	-	-	-
Operating expenses	(2,625)	(2,588)	(2,920)	(3,344)	(3,760)	Interest received	-	-	-	-	-
S & D costs	(1,718)	(1,537)	(1,825)	(2,120)	(2,425)	Others	(1,913)	-	-	-	-
Admin exp.	(711)	(827)	(852)	(967)	(1,057)	Net cash from investing	(2,045)	(204)	(140)	(160)	(181)
R & D	(195)	(223)	(244)	(256)	(277)						
Other operating expenses	-	-	-	-	-	Equity raised	1,187	-	-	-	-
EBIT	1,234	918	1,140	1,376	1,589	Net change in bank loans	386	-	-	-	-
						Dividend paid	(436)	(309)	(348)	(457)	(571)
Finance costs, net	(111)	(140)	(94)	(98)	(95)	Others	(98)	-	-	-	-
JVs & associates	(2)	(17)	(52)	(14)	23	Net cash from financing	1,039	(309)	(348)	(457)	(571)
Exceptional	-	-	-	-	-						
Pre-tax profit	1,121	762	995	1,263	1,517	Net change in cash	(227)	652	257	268	280
						Beginning cash balance	3,196	2,970	3,622	3,879	4,147
Income tax	(390)	(257)	(318)	(392)	(455)	Exchange difference	1	-	-	-	-
Less: Minority interests	4	(8)	5	9	11	Cash at the end of the year	2,970	3,622	3,879	4,147	4,427
Net profit	728	513	671	863	1,051						

Balance sheet YE 31 Dec (RMB mn)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E	YE 31 Dec	FV10A	EV20A	FY21E	EV22E	EV22E
Non-current assets	3.057	2,927	2.686	2,491	2,350	Sales mix (%)	TTIJA	11204	11216	11226	TIZJE
Fixed asset	662	788	839	899	977	Footwear	56.9	61.8	62.4	63.2	64.2
Intangible assets & goodwill	1,738	1,499	1.258	1.017	776	Apparel	40.9	36.3	35.8	35.1	34.2
Prepaid lease payments	104	104	104	104	104	Accessories	2.3		1.8		1.6
Interest in joint ventures	197	180	129	115	138		-	-	-	-	
Other non-current assets	356	356	356	356	356	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Current assets	9,266	9,806	10,711	11,698	12,745	P&L ratios (%)					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,970	3,622	3,879	4,147	4,427	Gross margin	43.4	39.1	40.7	41.7	42.1
Inventories	1,046	1,158	1,294	1,450	1,627	Operating margin	15.1	11.2	12.2	12.9	13.2
Trade and other receivables	2,910	2,687	3,079	3,511	3,964	Pre-tax margin	13.7	9.3	10.6	11.8	12.6
Prepayments	818	817	936	1,067	1,205	Net margin	8.9	6.3	7.2	8.1	8.7
Other current assets	1,522	1,522	1,522	1,522	1,522	Effective tax rate	34.7	33.0	30.4	30.7	30.5
Current liabilities	3,671	3,885	4,220	4,598	5,012	Balance sheet ratios					
Bank loans	1,086	1,086	1,086	1,086	1,086	Current ratio (x)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Trade payables	1,420	1,635	1,827	2,047	2,296	Quick ratio (x)	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Accruals & other payables	981	979	1,122	1,280	1,445	Cash ratio (x)	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Tax payables	115	115	115	115	115	Inventory turnover days	82	85	85	85	85
Others	69	69	69	69	69	Trade receivables days	130	120	120	120	120
						Trade payables days	112	120	120	120	120
Non-current liabilities	1,691	1,691	1,691	1,691	1,691	Total debt / total equity ratio (%)	34	33	31	30	28
Bank loans	1,269	1,269	1,269	1,269	1,269	Net debt / equity ratio (%)	Net	Net	Net	Net	Ne
Deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	Returns (%)					
Deferred tax	280	280	280	280	280	ROE	10.5	7.2	9.0	10.9	12.6
Others	142	142	142	142	142	ROA	5.9	4.0	5.0	6.1	7.0
						Per share					
Minority Interest	-	-8	-3	6	16	EPS (RMB)	0.30	0.21	0.27	0.35	0.42
Total net assets	6,960	7,164	7,488	7,894	8,375	DPS (RMB)	0.18	0.12	0.16	0.21	0.25
Shareholders' equity Source: Company data, CMI	6,960	7,164	7,488	7,894	8,375	BVPS (RMB)	2.79	2.88	3.01	3.17	3.36



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