China / Hong Kong Monthly Chart Book

China Telecom Sector

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

21 Jan 2022

CT continued market share gain in 5G sub

- Overall 5G penetration rate reached 44% in 2021, in line with our expectation
- Stable mobile sub market share; China Telecom (CT) gained 5G sub market share
- Maintain BUY calls with pecking order <u>China</u> <u>Unicom (CU, 762 HK)>China Telecom (CT, 728</u> <u>HK)>China Mobile (CM, 941 HK)</u>, on stable outlook and undemanding valuation

China Mobile's (CM, 941 HK) mobile subscriber (sub) net adds was 0.1m in Dec 21, and total mobile subs reached 956.9m. 5G package sub net adds fell 34.2% m-o-m to 12.4m in Dec 21, lower than the 19.0m monthly run-rate for 11M21. 5G package subs reached 386.8m. 5G penetration rose 1.3ppts m-o-m to 40.4%.

China Telecom's (CT, 728 HK) mobile sub net adds dropped 30% m-o-m to 0.5m in Dec 21, and total mobile subs reached 372.4m. 5G package sub net adds decreased 12% m-o-m to 9m in Dec 21, yet still higher than the 8.4m monthly run-rate for 11M21. 5G package subs reached 187.8m. 5G penetration rose 2.3ppts m-o-m to 50.4%.

China Unicom's (CU, 762 HK) mobile sub net adds was -0.2m in Dec 21, and total mobile subs was 317.1m. 5G package sub net adds fell 10.7% m-o-m to 5.4m in Dec 21 vs the 7.2m monthly run-rate for 11M21. 5G package subs reached 154.9m. 5G penetration rose 1.8ppts m-o-m to 48.9%.

5G sub net add largely in line. CM, CT and CU's 5G sub net adds were 221.8m, 101.3m, and 84.1m, respectively, in FY21, with the 5G penetration rate reaching 40.4%, 50.4%, and 48.9%. The overall 5G penetration rate was 44.3%, in line with our forecast.

CT gained market share in 5G submarket. Total mobile subs remained stable at 1,646m in Dec 2021. Mobile sub market share was similar to the previous month. CM, CT, and CU have 53.0%, 25.7%, and 21.2% of the 5G sub market share respectively, with CT gaining 0.3ppt market share.

Maintain BUY call on CU, CT, and CM, on stable outlook and undemanding valuation. Our pecking order is CU>CT>CM.

HSI: 24,952

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Recommendation & valuation

Company	Price Local\$	Target Price Local\$	Rec	Mkt Cap US\$m
ChinaMobile (941HK)	50.50	68.60	BUY	143,769
<u>ChinaTelecom</u> (728HK)	2.85	4.20	BUY	33,495
ChinaUnicom (762HK)	4.05	7.90	BUY	15,915

Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK")

Closing price as of 20 Jan 2022





China Telecom Sector



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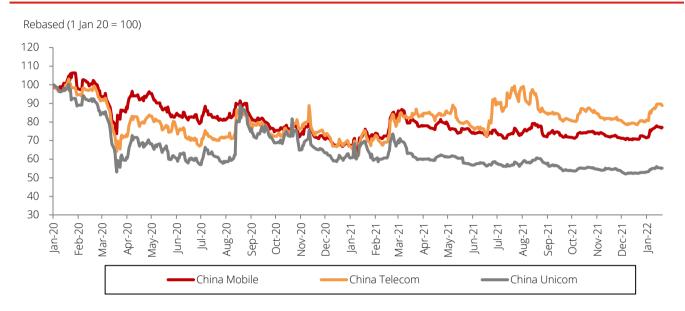
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China Telecom Sector



Share price performance

Share price performance - Telecom operators



Share price performance table

Share price performance (%)	1-mth	3-mth	6-mth	12-mth	YTD
China Mobile	9.0	3.5	4.8	3.1	7.9
China Telecom	13.1	1.8	(8.7)	22.3	9.6
China Unicom	5.2	(1.0)	(2.9)	(18.5)	3.8
HSI	9.7	(4.5)	(8.5)	(16.7)	6.6

Source: Thomson Reuters

Valuation

				Target		Mkt		PE	PE	Yield	Yield	P/Bk	P/Bk	EV/EB	ITDA	ROE	ROE
			Price	Price	Recom	Cap F	iscal	21F	22F	21F	22F	21F	22F	21F	22F	21F	22F
Company Name	Code Cu	rrency	Local\$	Local\$		US\$m	Yr	Х	Х	%	%	х	х	Х	Х	%	%
China Telecom opera	ators																
China Mobile*	941 HK	HKD	50.5	68.60	BUY	143,769	Dec	7.7	7.2	7.8	9.0	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.8	9.6	9.6
China Telecom*	728 HK	HKD	2.85	4.20	BUY	33,495	Dec	8.4	8.0	7.1	8.1	0.5	0.5	1.6	1.3	6.4	6.1
China Unicom*	762 HK	HKD	4.05	7.90	BUY	15,915	Dec	6.8	6.0	8.9	10.0	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	4.5	4.9

FY20: FY21; FY21: FY22

Source: Thomson Reuters, *DBS HK

Closing price as of 20 Jan 2022

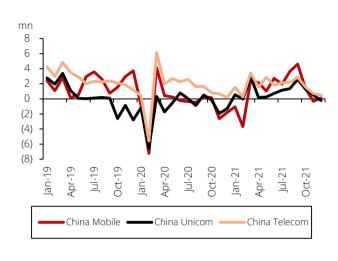
China Telecom Sector

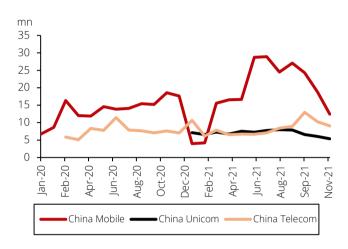


How has mobile market share changed?

Total mobile sub net-adds (Nov 21)

5G sub net-adds (Dec 21)

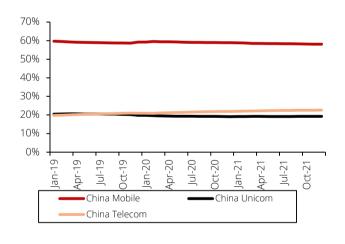


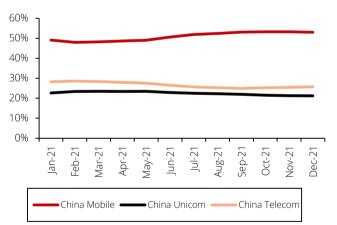


Note: China Unicom started to disclose 5G subscribers from Jan 2021

Market share - Total mobile sub number (Dec 21)

Market share - 5G sub (Dec 21)



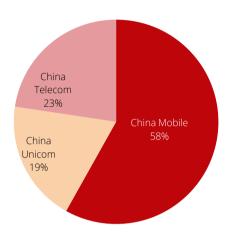


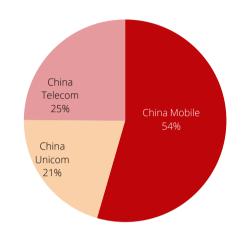
Source: Companies



Market share - Total mobile sub number (Dec 21)

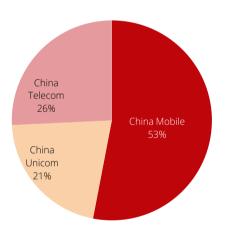
Market share - Cumulative 5G sub net adds (2021)

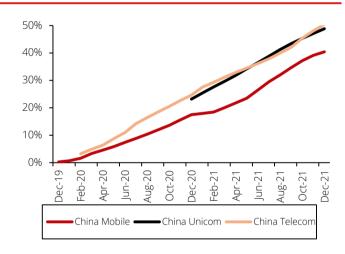




Market share - 5G sub number (Dec 21)

5G penetration rate (Dec 21)





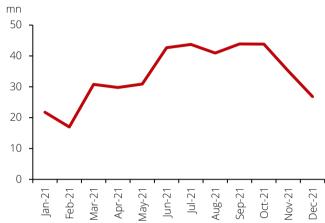
Source: Companies



Aggregated mobile sub net adds (Dec 21)

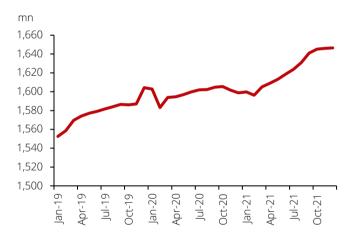
Aggregated 5G sub net adds (Dec 21)

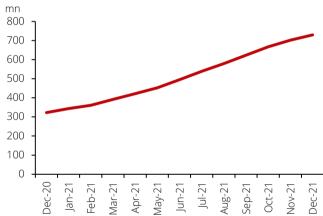




Aggregated mobile sub number (Dec 21)

Aggregated 5G sub number (Dec 21)





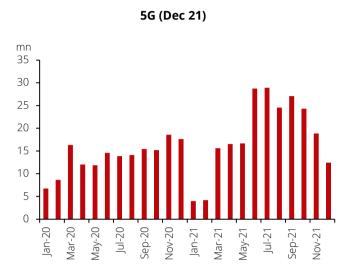
Source: Companies



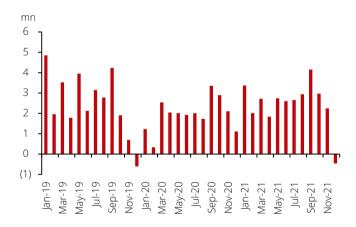
Monthly subscriber growth of individual operators

Monthly subscriber net adds - China Mobile

Mopile (Dec 21) May-19 Jul-19 Sep-19 May-20 Jul-21 Jul-21 Jul-21 Sep-21 May-21 May-21 May-21 May-21 May-21 May-21 Nov-20 Nov-21 May-21 Nov-21 Nov-21

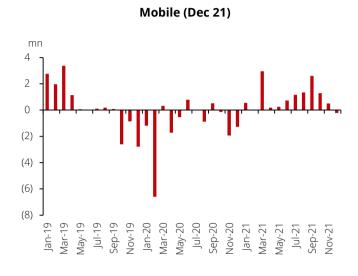


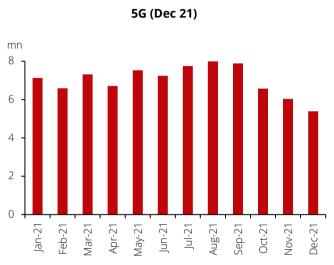
Broadband (Dec 21)



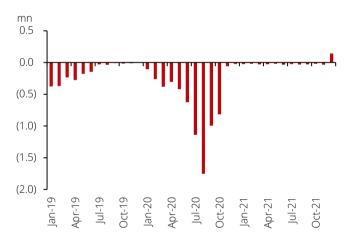


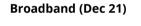
Monthly subscriber net adds- China Unicom





Fixed line (Dec 21)

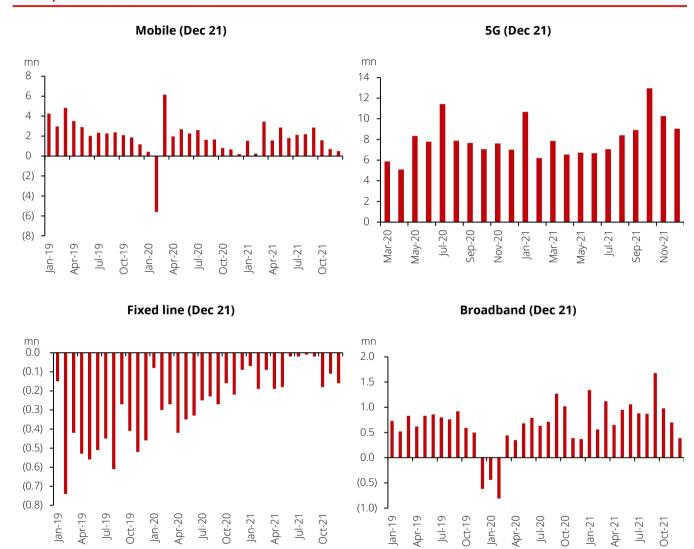








Monthly subscriber net adds - China Telecom



China Telecom Sector



Monthly subscriber growth - China Mobile

Million	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Mobile sub net-adds	(1.8)	(1.1)	(3.7)	2.4	2.2	1.0	2.7	2.0	3.6	4.6	1.4	(0.3)	0.1
Total mobile sub base	941.9	940.9	937.2	939.6	941.8	942.8	945.5	947.5	951.1	955.7	957.1	956.8	956.9
5G sub net-adds	17.6	4.0	4.2	15.6	16.5	16.7	28.7	28.9	24.5	27.1	24.3	18.9	12.4
5G sub base	165.0	169.0	173.2	188.8	205.3	222.0	250.7	279.6	304.1	331.2	355.5	374.4	386.8
Broadband net-adds	1.1	3.4	2.0	2.7	1.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.9	4.2	3.0	2.2	(0.5)
Broadband sub base	210.3	213.7	215.7	218.4	220.3	223.0	225.6	228.3	231.2	235.4	238.3	240.6	240.1

Source: Company

Monthly subscriber growth - China Unicom

Million	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Nov-21
Mobile sub net-adds	(1.3)	0.5	(0.0)	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.7	1.2	1.3	2.6	1.3	0.5	(0.2)
Total mobile sub base	305.8	306.4	306.3	309.3	309.5	309.7	310.5	311.6	313.0	315.6	316.8	317.3	317.1
EC aub patada		7.1	<i>c.c.</i>	7.0	6.7	7.5	7.2	77	0.0	7.0	<i>C.C.</i>	6.0	Г 4
5G sub net-adds		7.1	6.6	7.3	6.7	7.5	7.2	7.7	8.0	7.9	6.6	6.0	5.4
5G sub base		78.0	84.5	91.9	98.6	106.1	113.3	121.1	129.1	136.9	143.5	149.5	154.9
Broadband net-adds	(0.3)	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.2
Broadband sub base	86.1	86.9	87.2	88.1	88.8	89.5	90.1	90.6	91.5	93.0	94.0	94.8	95.0
Fired the cost odds	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	0.4
Fixed line net-adds	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	0.1
Fixed line sub base	47.3	47.3	47.3	47.3	47.2	47.2	47.2	47.2	47.1	47.1	47.1	47.1	47.2

Source: Company

Monthly subscriber growth - China Telecom

			- 1 ~										
Million	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Nov-21
Mobile sub net-adds	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.5	1.6	2.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.9	1.6	0.7	0.5
Total mobile sub base	351.0	352.6	352.8	356.3	357.8	360.7	362.5	364.6	366.8	369.7	371.2	371.9	372.4
5G sub net-adds	7.0	10.7	6.2	7.9	6.5	6.7	6.7	7.1	8.4	8.9	13.0	10.3	9.0
5G sub base	86.5	97.2	103.4	111.2	117.8	124.5	131.2	138.2	146.6	155.5	168.5	178.8	187.8
Broadband net-adds	0.4	1.3	0.6	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.4
Broadband sub base	158.5	159.9	160.4	161.6	162.2	163.2	164.2	165.1	166.0	167.6	168.6	169.3	169.7
Fixed line net-adds	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.2)
Fixed line sub base	107.9	107.8	107.6	107.5	107.3	107.2	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	106.9	106.8	106.6

China Telecom Sector



Key performance indicators

Key performance indicators as of 1H21

	China Mobile	China Telecom	China Unicom
Subscriber base (mn)			
Mobile	946	362	310
5G	251	131	113
Fixed-line	na	107	47
Broadband	226	164	90
ARPU (RMB)			
Mobile	52.2	45.7	44.4
5G	88.9	57.4	na
Fixed-line	na	11.6	10.9
Broadband	36.1	39.4	41.8

Source: Companies

Subscriber number as of Dec 2021

(mn)	China Mobile	China Telecom	China Unicom
Mobile	957	372	317
5G	387	188	155
Fixed-line	na	107	47
Broadband	240	170	95

China Telecom Sector



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BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)

HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps)

FULLY VALUED (negative total return, i.e., > -10% over the next 12 months)

SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

*Share price appreciation + dividends

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