



Hong Kong

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 31 Hold 3 Sell 2

Current price: HK\$58.85

Target price: HK\$81.00

Previous target: HK\$83.00

Up/downside: 37.6%

CGS-CIMB / Consensus: 1.0%

Reuters: 2318.HK

Bloomberg: 2318 HK

Market cap: US\$143,222m HK\$1,119,267m

Average daily turnover: US\$182.4m HK\$1,422m

Current shares o/s: 18,280m
Free float: 73.1%
*Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

- ➤ FY21F EPS cut by 3.7%.
- FY22F EPS cut by 2.8%.
- FY23F EPS cut by 3.0%



		Source: E	Bloomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	-3.4	6.3	-38.2
Relative (%)	2.7	12.4	-15

Major shareholders	% held
Shenzhen Investment Holdings Co.,	5.3
Business Fortune Holdings Limited	3.9
New Orient Ventures Limited	3.9

Ping An Insurance

Expect messy FY21F results

- We expect FY21F NBV to again be adversely impacted by negative actuarial assumption changes, which would lead to a worse yoy decline in 4Q21F.
- We also see FY21F net profit adversely impacted by further revaluation losses on its Lufax convertible bonds.
- We expect Ping An Bank to report the best performance of the group, with the worst performer being the life insurance division.
- Reiterate Add rating. Slight cut in our TP to HK\$81 on marginally lower FY21F-23F EPS and NBV estimates.

Adverse actuarial assumptions to weigh on 4Q21F NBV growth

We believe that for the second consecutive year, adverse actuarial assumption changes (relating to persistency) could worsen 4Q's new business value (NBV), with 4Q21F NBV growth yoy at -36% (3Q21: -34%; 2Q21: -42%; 4Q20: -61%) (Fig 3). Adverse assumption changes had lowered 4Q20 NBV by 20%. 1H21 persistency ratio fell to near multi-year lows (Fig 1) and Ping An had booked a Rmb6.1bn negative operating variance when reporting its 1H21 embedded value. Ping An reports its FY21 results on 17 Mar 2022.

Net profits hurt by revaluation losses on Lufax convertible bonds

We expect Ping An's FY21F net profit to be hurt by revaluation losses on its Lufax convertible bonds totaling Rmb11.4bn (9M21: -Rmb8.8bn; 1H21: -Rmb3.6bn). This follows Lufax's 19% qoq share price fall in 4Q21 (3Q21 qoq: -38%; 1H21 hoh: -20%). As Ping An classifies this item as a non-operating item, this revaluation loss would not adversely impact its dividends, which is based on operating profit. FY21F net profit is also adversely impacted by other non-operating items, including negative investment variances (largely relating to its exposure to China Fortune Land Development) as well as a negative impact to reserving expenses from declines in the life insurance discount rate stemming from a lower 750-day moving average bond yield (Fig 6).

Ping An Bank again likely to be the star performer

Ping An Bank had previously announced preliminary FY21 figures, with net profit up 25.6% yoy, and ROE rising yoy for the first time since FY14 (see <u>Moving onto the start of a new era</u>, dated 26 Jan 2022). Similar to past results (e.g. <u>Life's troubles hurt strength elsewhere</u> dated 26 Aug 2021), we see the banking division as the star performer of its upcoming FY21F results, with life insurance likely to be the worst performer, in our view.

Reiterate Add; SOP-based TP falls slightly to HK\$81

Maintain Add as it trades at more than 2 s.d. below its post Dec 2016 mean for P/EV and P/BV (Figs 8 & 9). Our slightly lower TP is driven by 3-4% cuts in FY21F-23F EPS due to lower investment income and higher reserving expenses. Potential re-rating catalysts: signs of premium growth bottoming or agent numbers stabilising. Key downside risks: tech valuation multiple de-rating and longer-than-expected impact from Covid-19.

Financial Summary	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Gross Premium (Rmbm)	797,807	800,424	754,324	746,513	759,598
Investment And Other Income (Rmbm)	190,659	205,768	163,346	215,495	245,628
Net Premium (Rmbm)	806,450	808,136	762,257	755,376	770,352
Net Profit (Rmbm)	149,407	143,099	106,304	152,438	170,787
Normalised EPS (Rmb)	8.41	8.10	6.01	8.62	9.66
Normalised EPS Growth	39.6%	(3.7%)	(25.7%)	43.4%	12.0%
FD Normalised P/E (x)	5.68	5.92	7.96	5.55	4.96
P/NB (x)	1.48	0.91	0.05	(1.61)	(3.58)
DPS (Rmb)	2.04	2.19	2.32	2.41	2.75
Dividend Yield	4.29%	4.61%	4.88%	5.08%	5.79%
P/EV (x)	1.15	1.05	1.00	0.94	0.87
P/BV (x)	1.28	1.13	1.04	0.92	0.82
ROE	24.2%	19.8%	13.3%	17.2%	17.1%
% Change In Normalised EPS Estimates			(3.70%)	(2.84%)	(3.04%)
Normalised EPS/consensus EPS (x)			0.92	1.04	1.03

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Analyst(s)



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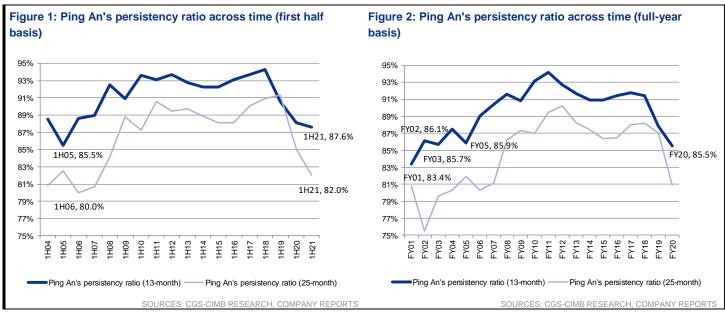
Expect messy FY21F results

FY21F NBV and net profit impacted

Ping An reports its FY21 results on 17 Mar 2022.

We believe that for the second consecutive year, adverse actuarial assumption changes (relating to persistency) could worsen 4Q's new business value (NBV). We forecast 4Q21F NBV growth at -36% yoy (3Q21: -34%; 2Q21: -42%; 4Q20: -61%) (Fig 3).

Adverse assumption changes had resulted in 4Q20 NBV being 20% lower than would otherwise have been the case. 1H21 persistency ratios are near multi-year lows (Fig 1) and Ping An booked Rmb6.1bn negative operating variance when reporting its 1H21 embedded value (EV).



Part of the reason for Ping An's weak NBV performance is its falling agent numbers, which fell 33% yoy in 3Q21 (Fig 4) (see <u>Past the worst, but a long road to recovery</u>, dated 27 Oct 2021).



As we stated in <u>Murky waters</u>, dated 17 Aug 2021, Ping An stopped releasing monthly disclosures on first year premiums (FYP), with only gross written



premiums disclosed on a monthly basis, and FYP disclosed on a quarterly basis. Individual FYP fell 9% yoy in 4Q21, an improvement from 3Q21's 12% yoy fall.

If we simplistically assume that the annuity business is primarily group insurance, the mix of individual FYP to other FYP remains constant, and that monthly persistency rates remain consistent with 1H21, we then arrive at an estimate that Ping An Life's Dec 2021 monthly individual channel's FYP rose 10% yoy, the strongest since Feb 2021 (Fig 5). We choose to focus on FYP from the individual channel rather than all channels, due to the low margins of the other channels (see *Saving ammunition for the next quarter?* dated 17 Jan 2022).

	Individual channel	Group channel	All channels		Individual channel	Group channel	All channels
Jan-18	-12%	4%	-11%	Feb-21	24%	-4%	20%
Feb-18	-16%	-33%	-18%	Mar-21	-17%	-41%	-25%
Mar-18	-11%	11%	-7%	Apr-21	-23%	-42%	-28%
Apr-18	-4%	76%	6%	May-21	-31%	-6%	-28%
May-18	9%	-3%	8%	Jun-21	-12%	-40%	-18%
Jun-18	20%	21%	20%	Jul-21F	-8%	47%	0%
Jul-18	15%	56%	19%	Aug-21F	-8%	22%	-4%
Aug-18	13%	-15%	10%	Sep-21F	-20%	-44%	-25%
Sep-18	3%	-13%	1%	Oct-21F	-15%	-19%	-16%
Oct-18	14%	-42%	7%	Nov-21F	-26%	7%	-21%
Nov-18	15%	56%	18%	Dec-21F	10%	-24%	5%
Dec-18	34%	101%	38%	Jan-21F	9%	-26%	6%
Jan-19	-20%	11%	-19%				
Feb-19	-2%	26%	1%	1H18	-6%	12%	-5%
Mar-19	1%	28%	6%	2H18	15%	12%	15%
Apr-19	0%	-19%	-4%	1H19	-9%	10%	-7%
May-19	6%	8%	6%	2H19	4%	22%	6%
Jun-19	-4%	9%	-2%	1H20	-15%	18%	-11%
Jul-19	4%	3%	4%	2H20	-26%	17%	-21%
Aug-19	-6%	73%	0%	1H21	2%	-19%	-1%
Sep-19	-5%	41%	-1%	2H21	-11%	-8%	-10%
Oct-19	-10%	100%	-2%				
Nov-19	-19%	-28%	-20%	4Q19	10%	9%	10%
Dec-19	48%	-12%	42%	1Q20	-19%	14%	-15%
Jan-20	-15%	7%	-14%	2Q20	-8%	23%	-4%
Feb-20	-29%	-13%	-27%	3Q20	-12%	14%	-8%
Mar-20	-22%	28%	-10%	4Q20	-38%	22%	-33%
Apr-20	-6%	32%	0%	1Q21	19%	-6%	15%
May-20	-4%	-13%	-5%	2Q21	-23%	-34%	-25%
Jun-20	-15%	43%	-7%	3Q21	-12%	-4%	-11%
Jul-20	-13%	-4%	-12%	4Q21	-9%	-12%	-9%
Aug-20	-11%	-18%	-12%				
Sep-20	-11%	59%	-2%	FY17	37%	-4%	32%
Oct-20	-19%	-10%	-18%	FY18	1%	12%	2%
Nov-20	-17%	72%	-10%	FY19	-4%	14%	-2%
Dec-20	-56%	29%	-51%	FY20	-20%	18%	-15%
Jan-21	31%	85%	34%	FY21	-3%	-15%	-5%

ses detailed monthly statistics for these categories

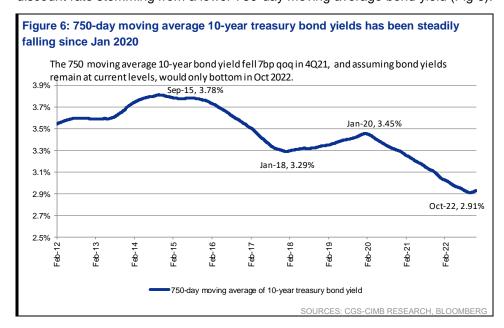
Shaded areas are the estimated figures as Ping An no longer discloses detailed monthly statistics for these categories.

We expect Ping An's FY21F net profit to be hurt by revaluation losses on its Lufax (LU US, Not Rated, CP: US\$6.18) convertible bonds totaling Rmb11.4bn (9M21: -Rmb8.8bn; 1H21: -Rmb3.6bn). This follows Lufax's 19% qoq share price fall in 4Q21 (3Q21 qoq: -38%; 1H21 hoh: -20%).

As Ping An classifies this item as a non-operating item, this revaluation loss would not adversely impact its dividends, which is based on operating profit. FY21F net profit is also adversely impacted by other non-operating items, including negative investment variances (largely relating to its exposure to China Fortune Land Development [600340.CH, Not Rated, CP:Rmb3.14]) as well as a



negative impact to reserving expenses from declines in the life insurance discount rate stemming from a lower 750-day moving average bond yield (Fig 6).



Changes to our forecasts

We cut our FY21F-23F EPS forecasts by 3.0-3.7%, and our FY21F-23F NBV by 1.0%. Our EPS cuts are primarily driven by lower assumptions for investment income and higher assumptions for insurance-related expense (Fig 7).

We now forecast NBV to fall 20.2% (previously 19.4%) in FY21F, driven by a decline in first-year premiums (FYP) and NBV margin compression. As Ping An's NBV had expanded 15.2% in 1Q21, but fell 42.3% yoy in 2Q21 and 33.5% yoy in 3Q21, we expect its 4Q21F NBV to shrink 36.1% (previously 30.1%) yoy, given that the FYP (annualised premium equivalent) of the individual channel had declined 8.9% in 4Q21, albeit an improvement from 3Q21's 12.3% yoy fall.

We forecast NBV to fall 40% yoy in 1Q22F, 15% yoy in 2Q22F and 5% yoy in 3Q22F, before expanding 18% yoy in 4Q22F.



		FY21F			FY22F		FY23F			
(Rmb m)	Old	New ⁴	% change	Old	New	% change	Old	New	% change	
Profit & loss										
Net premiums earned	713,907	713,906	0.0%	704,151	704,148	0.0%	714,198	714,193	0.0%	
Total investment income	185,911	183,974	-1.0%	238,830	237,154	-0.7%	269,765	268,370	-0.5%	
Other income	67,745	67,922	0.3%	68,456	68,821	0.5%	74,796	75,282	0.6%	
Total Revenue	1,260,314	1,251,485	-0.7%	1,343,089	1,324,947	-1.4%	1,436,456	1,406,655	-2.1%	
Insurance-related expenses	594,527	597,179	0.4%	591,399	594,021	0.4%	615,913	618,634	0.4%	
Other expenses	531,292	525,057	-1.2%	558,797	543,827	-2.7%	602,963	577,509	-4.2%	
Total benefits, claims and expenses	1,125,819	1,122,236	-0.3%	1,150,196	1,137,848	-1.1%	1,218,876	1,196,142	-1.9%	
Share of P/L from associates	13,422	13,438	0.1%	13,895	13,928	0.2%	14,954	14,997	0.3%	
Pre-tax profit	147,917	142,687	-3.5%	206,788	201,028	-2.8%	232,534	225,510	-3.0%	
Income tax	24,985	24,305	-2.7%	32,067	31,269	-2.5%	36,370	35,317	-2.9%	
Minority interests (or non-controlling interests)	12,543	12,079	-3.7%	17,827	17,321	-2.8%	20,015	19,406	-3.0%	
Net profit	110,388	106,304	-3.7%	156,894	152,438	-2.8%	176,149	170,787	-3.0%	
EPS	6.25	6.01	-3.7%	8.88	8.62	-2.8%	9.97	9.66	-3.0%	
DPS	2.42	2.33	-3.7%	2.51	2.42	-3.5%	2.89	2.76	-4.2%	
BVPS	45.51	45.32	-0.4%	51.50	51.11	-0.8%	58.15	57.51	-1.1%	
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Key balance sheet items					. =	- 40/				
Total investment assets	4,151,310	4,145,667	-0.1%	4,616,216	4,599,311	-0.4%	5,132,942	5,105,577	-0.5%	
Total assets	10,610,616		-0.1%	11,798,902		-0.4%	13,119,637		-0.5%	
Total shareholders' equity excl. minorities	831,941	828,427	-0.4%	941,503	934,224	-0.8%	1,062,981	1,051,369	-1.1%	
Key EV and NBV metrics										
NBV	39,950	39,540	-1.0%	33,895	33,547	-1.0%	35,268	34,905	-1.0%	
NBV growth	-19.4%	-20.2%	-0.8 pts	-15.2%	-15.2%	0.0 pts	4.0%	4.0%	0.0 pts	
Life embedded value	868,027	867,677	0.0%	929,420	923,551	-0.6%	997,271	994,442	-0.3%	
Life ROEV	10%	9%	0 pts	12%	12%	-1 pts	12%	13%	0 pts	
ROE	14%	13%	0 pts	18%	17%	0 pts	18%	17%	0 pts	
NBV margin	40.6%	40.2%	-0.4 pts	39.5%	39.1%	-0.4 pts	40.7%	40.3%	-0.4 pts	
First year premiums (APE weighted)	98,418	98,418	0%	85,814	85,814	0%	86,636	86,636	0%	
Other key metrics										
Gross written premiums (GWP)	751,872	751,889	0%	743,901	743,936	0%	757,376	757,421	0%	
GWP growth	-6%	-6%	0 pts	-1%	-1%	0 pts	2%	2%	0 pts	
FYP (APE) growth	-3%	-3%	0 pts	-13%	-13%	0 pts	1%	1%	0 pts	
Life & health insurance gross investment yield	4.20%	4.15%	0 pts	4.96%	4.91%	0 pts	4.91%	4.86%	0 pts	
Insurance-related expenses/ (net earned premiums+ total investment revenue)	81%	82%	1 pts	77%	78%	1 pts	77%	78%	1 pts	
Effective tax rate	17%	17%	0 pts	16%	16%	0 pts	16%	16%	0 pt:	
Dividend payout ratio	40%	40%	0 pts	29%	29%	0 pts	30%	29%	0 pt:	
EPS growth	-23%	-26%	-3 pts	42%	43%	1 pts	12%	12%	0 pt	
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EV = Embedded value; NBV = New business value; BVPS = Book value per share; FYP = First year premiums; GWP = Gross written premiums; APE = Annualised premium equivalent; ROEV = Return nembedded value

Valuation and risks

Our SOP-based TP is cut slightly to HK\$81 from HK\$83, primarily driven by cuts to our FY21F-FY23F estimates for new business value (NBV), embedded value (EV) as well as EPS. Our valuation for Ping An's fintech and healthtech units are also lower as a number of these units are listed, and their share prices have fallen since we last mark-to-market in Jan 2022.

We value Ping An's life insurance and health insurance segments using a weighted average P/EV and P/BV Gordon Growth Model (33% weighting to P/EV GGM and 67% weighting to P/BV GGM), while we value its property and casualty (P&C) insurance division using a P/BV GGM.

The trust, securities and asset management divisions are also valued using a P/BV GGM. The banking business is valued at market value since Ping An Bank (000001 CH, Add, TP: Rmb25.5, CP: Rmb15.98) is listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.



For its fintech and healthtech businesses, the units that are already listed are valued at their current market values – Good Doctor (1833 HK, Not rated, CP: HK\$24.45), OneConnect (OCFT US, Add, TP: US\$3.80, CP: US\$1.59), Lufax (LU US, Not rated, CP: US\$6.18) and Autohome (ATHM US, Not rated, CP: US\$24.45) – while the unit that has raised capital prior to listing (i.e. HealthKonnect) is valued at its most recent post-money valuations, and the remaining technology units of Ping An Group are valued using peer technology company P/BV multiples.

Our peer technology company P/BV multiple is derived from a simple average P/BV multiple of four types of technology companies, namely healthtech, fintech, Internet and online verticals, and others. Within each of these four groupings, we take the weighted average P/BV multiple of a selection of companies chosen across the globe (Fig 8).

Figure 8: Companies used to determine the target P/BV multiple for valuing Ping An's technology division (excluding Lufax, Good Doctor, OneConnect, HealthKonnect & Autohome)

Autonomo)			
Healthtech	Fintech	Internet	Online verticals and others
1 Teladoc Health Inc	Zhongan Online P&C Ins.	Tencent Holdings Ltd	BitAuto Holdings Ltd
2 Amedisys Inc	Qudian Inc	Alibaba Group Holding	Trip.com Group Ltd
3 Alibaba Health Information Tech.	Lexinfintech Holdings	Baidu Inc	51job Inc
4 Syneos Health Inc	FinVolution Group	Yahoo Japan Corp	Autohome Inc
5 Catalent Inc	360 Digitech Inc	JD.com Inc	Uxin Ltd
6 Ping An Healthcare & Tech.	Afterpay Touch Group Ltd	Vipshop Holdings Ltd	
7 Winning Health Technology	Silverlake Axis Ltd	Wisetech Global Ltd	
8 Volpara Health Technologies	iFAST Corp	Altium Ltd	
9	Lendingclub Corp	Appen Ltd	
10	Xero Ltd	Facebook Inc	
11	Paypal Holdings Inc	Amazon.com Inc	
12	Pushpay Holdings Ltd	Apple Inc	
13	Lemonade Inc	Netflix Inc	
14	Futu Holdings	Alphabet Inc	
15	Up Fintech Holdings Ltd		
16	Tyro Payments Ltd		
17	ZIP Co Ltd		
18	Square Inc		
19	Global Payments Inc		
20	Shift4 Payments Inc		
21	Verisk Analytics Inc		
22	Repay Holdings Corp		
23	Fiserv Inc		
24	Fidelity National Info Serv		
25	East Money Information Co	0	
26	Hundsun Technologies Inc		
		SOURCES: CGS-CIMB F	RESEARCH, BLOOMBERG

Furthermore, to take into account the fact that we are valuing the remaining unlisted technology businesses of Ping An, we also apply a 65% valuation discount to these multiples to reflect: i) the opaqueness of these remaining technology businesses, ii) the relatively high risk of the regulatory environment currently in China, and iii) the relatively illiquid nature of these businesses, which would make it very difficult for them to be sold at prices that approach listed companies' valuation multiples (Fig 9).

Our key valuation assumptions can be seen in Figs 10 and 11.

We apply target valuation multiples to FY22F embedded value per share (EVPS) and book value per share (BVPS) to derive our target price. Our Rmb/HK\$ exchange rate assumption is 1.19.



Figure 9: How we derive our target P/B\ (excluding Lufax, Good Doctor, OneCor	/ multiple for Ping An's technology division nect, HealthKonnect & Autohome)
	Market-capitalisation weighted average FY21F P/BV
Healthtech	5.5x
Fintech	23.4x
Internet	17.8x
Online verticals and other tech	0.9x
Simple average P/BV	11.9x
Unlisted valuation discount applied	65%
	SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH ESTIMATES

Main valuation assumptions		Old	% change
Equity risk premiums (ERP)	8.0%	8.0%	0%
Risk free rate	3.0%	3.0%	0%
Beta (group level)	1.45	1.45	0%
Cost of equity (COE)	14.6%	14.6%	0%
Terminal growth rate	5.0%	5.0%	0%
Rmb/HK\$ exchange rate	1.19	1.19	0%
Life & Health Insurance			
Sustainable Life & Health ROEV (weighted average of FY19-FY23F for Life & Health, with a 30% weighting to the first two years, and a 70% weighting to the last three years)	15%	15%	-1%
Target P/EV (x)	1.0x	1.0x	-2%
Life & Health FY22F EVPS (Rmb)	52.25	52.58	-1%
Life & Health FY22F EVPS (HK\$)	62.41	62.81	-1%
Life & Health valuation (HK\$) under P/EV GGM approach	64.20	65.90	-3%
Sustainable Life & Health ROE (weighted average of FY19-FY23F for Life & Health, with a 30% weighting to the first three years, and a 70% weighting to the last two years)	27%	28%	-2%
Target P/BV (x)	2.3x	2.4x	-3%
Life & Health FY22F BVPS (Rmb)	20.38	20.71	-2%
Life & Health FY22F BVPS (HK\$)	24.34	24.74	-2%
Life & Health valuation (HK\$)under P/BV GGM approach	56.10	58.60	-4%
P/EV weighting for Life & Health	33%	33%	0%
P/BV weighting for Life & Health	67%	67%	0%
Life & Health valuation (HK\$)	58.80	61.00	-4%
P&C Insurance			
Sustainable P&C ROE (weighted average of FY19-FY23F, with a 30% weighting to the first three years, and a 70% weighting to the last two years)	16%	16%	-3%
Target P/BV (x)	1.1x	1.2x	-5%
PingAn P&C FY22F BVPS (Rmb)	7.22	7.30	-1%
PingAn P&C FY22F BVPS (HK\$)	8.62	8.72	-1%
PingAn P&C valuation (HK\$)	9.80	10.40	-6%
Trust			
Trust - Sustainable ROE (weighted average of FY19-FY23F, with a 30% weighting to the first three years, and a 70% weighting to the last two years)	9%	9%	0%
Trust - target P/BV ratio	0.4x	0.4x	0%
Trust - FY22F BVPS (Rmb)	1.51	1.51	0%
Trust - FY22F BVPS (HK\$)	1.80	1.80	0%
Trust - valuation (HK\$)	0.70	0.70	0%
Securities			
Securities - Sustainable ROE (weighted average of FY19-FY23F, with a 30% weighting to the first three years, and a 70% weighting to the last two years)	9%	9%	0%
Securities - target P/BV ratio	0.4x	0.4x	0%
Securities - FY22F BVPS (Rmb)	2.09	2.09	0%
Securities - FY22F BVPS (HK\$)	2.49	2.49	0%
UCUUNUCO - I IZZI DVFO (IIIV)			3,0



Fintech & Healthtech	New	Old	% change
Fintech & Healthtech - valuation (HK\$)	15.12	14.84	2%
Comprising of:			
Good Doctor	0.56	0.63	-11%
Autohome	0.79	0.90	-11%
Lufax	2.55	2.06	24%
OneConnect	0.09	0.13	-32%
HealthKonnect	1.13	1.13	0%
Other fintech and healthtech businesses	10.00	10.00	0%
Other asset management			
Other asset management - Sustainable ROE (weighted average of FY19-FY23F, with a 30% weighting to the first three years, and a 70% weighting to the last two years)	12%	12%	0%
Other asset management - target P/BV ratio	0.8x	0.8x	0%
Other asset management - FY22F BVPS (Rmb)	4.48	4.48	0%
Other asset management - FY22F BVPS (HK\$)	5.35	5.35	0%
Other asset management - valuation (HK\$)	4.00	4.00	0%
Others - FY22F BVPS (Rmb)	-0.61	-0.61	-1%
Others - FY22F BVPS (HK\$)	-0.73	-0.73	-1%
Others - valuation (HK\$)	-0.70	-0.70	0%
Portion of Ping An Bank			
Ping An Bank - current share price (Rmb)	15.98	16.98	-6%
Ping An Bank - valuation (HK\$)	12.05	12.80	-6%
Conglomerate discount	20%	20%	0%
Final target price (HK\$)	81.00	83.00	-2%
Current share price (HK\$)	58.85		
Upside/ downside	38%		
FY22F NBV per share (Rmb)	1.88	1.90	-1%
i.e FY22F NBV per share (HK\$)	2.25	2.27	-1%
Implied target new business multiple	36.0x	36.6x	-1%
Implied target P/EV multiple	1.2x	1.2x	-2%
Implied target P/BV multiple	2.2x	2.3x	-2%
Ping An Group valuation by business segment			
Percentage of valuation from life	58%	59%	
Percentage of valuation from P&C	10%	10%	
Percentage of valuation from Fintech & Healthtech	15%	14%	
Percentage of valuation from Banking	12%	12%	
Percentage of valuation from Other	5%	5%	

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH ESTIMATES, BLOOMBERG

'Valuations for Good Doctor (1833 HK, Not Rated, cp: HK\$27.35), Autohome (ATHM US, Not Rated, cp: US\$35.85), Lufax (LU US, Not Rated, cp: US\$4.99), Ping An Bank (000001 CH, Add, TP:Rmb24.9) and OneConnect (OCFT US, Add, TP: US\$4.40, cp: US\$2.35) are based on their closing prices as of 17 Jan 2022. Valuations for HealthKonnect (unlisted) are based on the valuation of heir most recent round of financing.

Our target price of HK\$81 gives a 38% potential upside from its current share price. Therefore, we reiterate our Add rating.

Key downside risks to our call are an increased loss of faith in embedded value (EV) and NBV-based valuation metrics, A-share market weakness, potential acquisition risk, more rapid agent turnover should agent commission income be adversely impacted by its reduced focus on short payment-duration savings products, and a loss of investor faith in actuarial-based valuation methodologies, as well as significant de-rating of technology valuation multiples and a longer-than-expected impact from Covid-19.

Potential re-rating catalysts are better A-share market performance and a stronger-than-expected turnaround of its life insurance business, following the completion of its life insurance reform programme as well as the listing of its technology units.



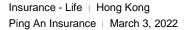
Figure 12:	Sector	comparison	as	of	2 Mar	2022
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	Ticker	Doo	Market Con	Dries	Tarmat	.,				VONE				- (D) (()				
	ricker	Rec	Market Cap	Price	Target	+/-		P/EV (x))	VONE	multip	ie (x)		P/BV (x))	Grou	ıp ROE\	7 (%)
			(US\$bn)	(Lcy)	Price (Lcy)	(%)	FY20A	FY21F	FY22F	FY20A	FY21F	FY22F	FY20A	FY21F	FY22F	FY20A	FY21F	FY22F
China Life	2628 HK	Add	129.97	12.86	19.20	49%	0.28x	0.26x	0.23x	-13.1x	-15.2x	-22.1x	0.7x	0.6x	0.6x	16.8	12.7	12.7
Ping An	2318 HK	Add	197.71	58.85	81.00	38%	0.64x	0.60x	0.56x	-12.8x	-17.7x	-20.3x	1.1x	1.0x	0.9x	5.0	5.6	11.1
CPIC	2601 HK	Add	46.09	21.45	29.70	38%	0.38x	0.34x	0.31x	-15.6x	-16.7x	-17.8x	0.8x	0.8x	0.7x	18.7	11.8	14.4
PICC P&C	2328 HK	Add	21.74	7.83	9.40	20%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.8x	0.7x	0.7x	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
AIA	1299 HK	Add	159.18	79.55	107.00	35%	1.89x	1.79x	1.65x	21.0x	16.7x	13.5x	2.0x	1.8x	1.7x	8.4	8.9	12.1
NCI	1336 HK	Add	20.50	22.35	33.10	48%	0.24x	0.22x	0.20x	-19.9x	-27.5x	-28.5x	0.6x	0.5x	0.5x	19.5	12.9	10.6
HK-listed v	veighted ave	erage					0.88x	0.83x	0.76x	-3.6x	-7.5x	-11.1x	1.2x	1.1x	1.0x	10.4	9.0	12.0
HK-listed v	veighted ave	erage ex /	AIA				0.47x	0.44x	0.40x	-13.6x	-17.3x	-21.0x	0.9x	0.8x	0.7x	11.2	9.0	12.0

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH ESTIMATES, BLOOMBERG, COMPANY REPORTS DATA AS OF 2 MAR 2022

(*CPIC: China Pacific Insurance Company; NCI: New China Life Insurance; PICC P&C: PICC (The People's Insurance Company of China) Property & Casualty)

(Rmb m)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21F	FY22F	FY23F	FY24F
Profit & loss	1110	1 1 1 1 7	1 1 10	1113	1 120	1 1211	1 1221	1 1231	1 12-71
Gross written premiums	469,555	605,035	719,556	795,064	797,880	751,889	743,936	757,421	782,528
Net premiums earned	441,620	572,990	677,703	748,779	757,599	713,906	704,148	714,193	733,522
Investment income	115,053	152,101	120,273	201,738	225,046	183,974		268,370	308,436
							237,154		
Other operating income	41,898	43,813	49,892	60,357	64,819	67,922	68,821	75,282	99,364
Total income Net policyholders' benefits and claims:	775,858	967,425	1,064,072	1,249,867	1,304,573	1,251,485	1,324,947	1,406,655	1,532,378
Total benefits, claims and expenses	324,814	427,243	439,596	578,313	614,751	597,179	594,021	618,634	652,501
Share of profit in equity accounted investees	680,077	839,830	918,995 18,074	1,088,352	1,133,654	1,122,236	1,137,848	1,196,142	1,295,093
Profit before tax	(1,370)	7,145		23,224	16,845	13,438	13,928	14,997	17,823 255,108
	94,411	134,740 34,762	163,151	184,739	187,764	142,687	201,028	225,510	40,261
Income tax	22,043		42,699	20,374	28,405	24,305	31,269	35,317	
Net profit before minorities	72,368	99,978	120,452	164,365	159,359	118,383	169,759	190,193	214,847
Minorities interest	9,974	10,890	13,048	14,958	16,260	12,079	17,321	19,406	21,922
Net profit	62,394	89,088	107,404	149,407	143,099	106,304	152,438	170,787	192,925
of which: operating profit	68,252	94,708	112,573	132,955	139,471	151,052	157,147	179,223	202,666
EPS	3.50	4.99	6.02	8.41	8.10	6.01	8.62	9.66	10.92
DPS	0.75	1.50	1.72	2.05	2.20	2.33	2.42	2.76	3.13
BVPS	20.98	25.89	30.44	36.82	41.71	45.32	51.11	57.51	65.35
Group EVPS	34.89	45.14	54.84	65.67	72.65	76.74	81.68	87.83	95.22
Life NBV per share	2.78	3.68	3.95	4.15	2.71	2.16	1.84	1.91	1.99
Key balance sheet items									
Total investment assets	2,004,780	2,449,474	2,794,620	3,208,836	3,740,581	4,145,667	4,599,311	5,105,577	5,769,762
Total assets	5,576,903	6,493,075	7,142,960	8,222,929	9,527,870	10,596,194	11,755,693	13,049,693	14,747,328
Total shareholders' equity excl. minorities	383,449	473,351	556,508	673,161	762,560	828,427	934,224	1,051,369	1,194,603
Key EV and NBV metrics									
NBV	50,805	67,357	72,294	75,945	49,575	39,540	33,547	34,905	36,318
NBV growth	64.7%	32.6%	7.3%	5.1%	-34.7%	-20.2%	-15.2%	4.0%	4.0%
Life embedded value	360,312	496,381	613,223	757,490	824,574	867,677	923,551	994,442	1,067,017
Life ROEV	16%	42%	30%	31%	16%	9%	12%	13%	12%
Group embedded value	637,703	825,173	1,002,456	1,200,533	1,328,112	1,402,743	1,493,185	1,605,463	1,740,712
Group ROEV	17%	33%	26%	24%	14%	5%	6%	11%	12%
ROE	17%	21%	21%	24%	20%	13%	17%	17%	17%
NBV margin	47%	46%	51%	57%	49%	40%	39%	40%	42%
First year premiums (APE weighted)	107,643	146,817	142,531	133,462	101,611	98,418	85,814	86,636	87,500
Other key metrics									
Life gross written premiums (GWP)	291,264	388,642	472,359	526,811	514,513	484,214	454,182	438,502	430,693
Life gross written premium (GWP) growth	25%	27%	20%	7%	-2%	-4%	-6%	-3%	-2%
Life FYP (APE) growth	36%	36%	-3%	-6%	-24%	-3%	-13%	1%	1%
P&C combined ratio	95.9%	96.2%	96.1%	96.4%	99.2%	97.7%	97.3%	96.9%	96.5%
Life & health insurance gross investment	22.2.0							, , , ,	22.370
yield	5.30%	6.10%	3.60%	7.00%	6.20%	4.15%	4.91%	4.86%	4.82%
Effective tax rate	23%	26%	26%	11%	15%	17%	16%	16%	16%
Dividend payout ratio	22%	31%	33%	25%	28%	40%	29%	29%	30%
EPS growth	17%	43%	21%	40%	-4%	-26%	43%	12%	13%
BVPS growth	15%	29%	21%	20%	11%	6%	6%	8%	8%







Refinitiv ESG Scores





Based on the data we have, Ping An scored a C+ rating for its combined ESG score by Refinitiv in 2020, down from B in 2019. However, Ping An lists in its 2020 sustainability report that its ESG rating is A from MSCI (the highest level for a financial company in China Mainland), A- from CDP (the highest level for a financial company in China Mainland), B+ for Refinitiv, and an A on the Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index. It leverages "finance + technology" to help the industrial development of targeted poverty-stricken areas, hence alleviating poverty and helping the disadvantaged. Going forward, Ping An will upgrade its Low-Carbon 100 Programme, which is in line with policymakers' goal of carbon neutrality by 2060, which could include targeting "green finance" offerings for realising zero emissions in its asset portfolio...

Keep your eye on

Investors are concerned about Ping An's exposure to the real estate sector, and Reuters reported at the end of Aug 2021 that the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) is probing Ping An's investments in the real estate market. Ping An life insurance has received the highest number of complaints from customers, according to Sina Finance. This could be a potential problem with the regulators in the future.

Implications

We believe that Ping An has been reducing its exposure to real estate, which comprised a small and manageable 5% of its insurance investment portfolio at end-1H21. We also understand that Ping An is improving its internal sales management processes as it reforms its agent force. Thus, the worst may be over in regards to these issues adversely impacting its share price.

ESG highlights

According to Ping An's 2020 sustainability report, its ESG rating of A from MSCI is the highest level for a financial company in China Mainland. Its A- ESG rating from CDP is also the highest level for a financial company in China Mainland.

Implications

Ping An has been increasingly committed to its ESG issues over the past few years. We believe further progress on its ESG could support its future re-rating.

Trends

Ping An's Refinitiv combined ESG score had declined from B in 2019 to C+ in 2020. This was driven by the decline in its Environmental score and the Social pillar score from B+ in 2019 to B in 2020, and the decline in the Governance pillar score from B- in 2019 to C- in 2020. However, Ping An's ESG Controversies score has remained at A+ since 2016. On the other hand, there seems to an improvement of the ESG ratings provided by MSCI and CDP. In its 2020 sustainability report, Ping An lists its MSCI ESG rating as A, and its CDP ESG rating at A-. This is an improvement over the ratings disclosed in its 2019 sustainability report, which was BBB for its MSCI ESG rating, and B- for its CDP ESG rating.

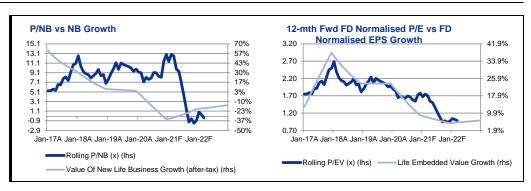
Implications

The gap between its ESG scores by different providers is interesting. There seems to be much room for Ping An to improve its Refinitiv ESG scores to narrow the gap between these scores and those from MSCI and CDP. Such an improvement could be positive for its share price among ESG-focused investors.

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, REFINITI' MSCI = MORGAN STANLEY CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL; CDP = CARBON DISCLOSUR



BY THE NUMBERS



(D b)	D 404	D 004	D 04E	D 00E	D 00F
(Rmbm)	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Revenue	757,186	765,055	721,594	712,751	724,728
Total Claims and Changes in Reserves	(578,390)	(614,930)	(597,350)	(594,203)	(618,797)
Acq. Costs/Other Underwriting Exp.	(=0.004)	(=a aaa)	(00.0=1)	(22 = 12)	(1.1= 100)
Total Underwriting Result	(59,661)	(78,002)	(90,854)	(96,716)	(117,420)
Investment Income on Tech Reserve	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance Profit / (Loss)	(59,661)	(78,002)	(90,854)	(96,716)	(117,420)
Total Other Technical Income	180,449	193,412	151,232	202,890	230,934
Total Other Revenues	286,531	320,216	352,566	382,998	424,457
Total Operating Costs	(231,723)	(246,410)	(265,227)	(282,884)	(307,016)
Other Technical Income / (Loss)					
Depreciation And Amortisation	0	0	0	0	0
Operating Profit	175,596	189,216	147,717	206,288	230,955
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	23,224	16,845	13,438	13,928	14,997
Post-Tax Oper. Earnings - Life/Other Biz					
Head Office Costs					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0	0	0	0	0
Net Interest Income	(14,081)	(18,297)	(18,468)	(19,189)	(20,443)
Investment Income on Shareholders Fund					
Other Income					
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	184,739	187,764	142,687	201,028	225,510
Taxation	(20,374)	(28,405)	(24,305)	(31,269)	(35,317)
Consolidation Adjustments & Others					
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	164,365	159,359	118,383	169,759	190,193
Minority Interests	(14,958)	(16,260)	(12,079)	(17,321)	(19,406)
Preferred Dividends	(,,	(-,,	(,,	(,- ,	(-,,
Special Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Preference Dividends (Australia)					

Operating Ratios					
	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Premium Retention Ratio (life & Health)	100%	100%	101%	101%	102%
Benefits Ratio (life & Health)	(86%)	(91%)	(95%)	(98%)	(103%)
Acquisition Expense Ratio (life & Health)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Admin Expense Ratio (life & Health)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Expense Ratio (life & Health)	31.2%	28.8%	29.5%	30.0%	30.8%
Policyholder Dividends Ratio (life & Health)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Combined Underwriting Ratio (life & Health)	(54.7%)	(62.3%)	(65.6%)	(67.9%)	(72.3%)
Underwriting Profit Margin (life & Health)	(12.9%)	(15.6%)	(19.9%)	(22.7%)	(28.5%)
Operating Profit Margin (life & Health)	18.8%	19.3%	8.4%	18.9%	20.7%

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rmbm)	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Other Long Term Assets	7,242,415	8,419,515	9,435,771	10,543,205	11,782,162
Total Non-current Assets	7,242,415	8,419,515	9,435,771	10,543,205	11,782,162
Total Cash And Equivalents	796,557	906,305	963,811	1,021,167	1,081,359
Trade Debtors					
Other Current Assets	183,957	202,050	196,612	191,321	186,171
Total Current Assets	980,514	1,108,355	1,160,423	1,212,488	1,267,530
Creditors - Direct & Reinsurance Business					
Provision For Claims Outstanding					
Other Current Liabilities	4,821	5,148	5,160	5,188	5,242
Total Current Liabilities	4,821	5,148	5,160	5,188	5,242
Total Long-term Debt					
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Other Liabilities	7,365,738	8,534,817	9,537,262	10,590,935	11,767,737
Total Non-current Liabilities	7,365,738	8,534,817	9,537,262	10,590,935	11,767,737
Total Technical & Other Provisions	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	7,370,559	8,539,965	9,542,422	10,596,123	11,772,979
Shareholders' Equity	678,162	768,555	834,422	940,219	1,057,364
Minority Interests	179,209	225,345	225,345	225,345	225,345
Total Equity	857,371	993,900	1,059,767	1,165,564	1,282,709
Life Embedded Value	757,490	824,574	867,677	923,551	994,442

Key Ratios					
	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Net Premium Growth	10.8%	0.2%	(5.7%)	(0.9%)	2.0%
Operating Profit Growth (Life & Health)	30%	0%	(59%)	111%	6%
Value Of New Life Business Growth (after-tax)	5.1%	(34.7%)	(20.2%)	(15.2%)	4.0%
Life Embedded Value Growth	23.5%	8.9%	5.2%	6.4%	7.7%
Pre-tax Margin	23.6%	23.8%	19.1%	27.2%	30.0%
Net Profit Margin	19.1%	18.1%	14.2%	20.6%	22.8%
Effective Tax Rate	11.0%	15.1%	17.0%	15.6%	15.7%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	25.0%	28.0%	39.9%	29.0%	29.5%
Return On Average Assets	2.14%	1.80%	1.18%	1.52%	1.53%
Net Gearing	673%	658%	745%	1262%	4507%
Financial Leverage	12.45	12.27	12.55	12.60	12.42
Equity / Assets	8.25%	8.07%	7.87%	8.00%	8.10%

Key Drivers					
	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
First year premiums (APE) growth yoy (%)	-6.4%	-23.9%	-3.1%	-12.8%	1.0%
New business value growth (%)	5.1%	-34.7%	-20.2%	-15.2%	4.0%
Life return on embedded value [ROEV] (%)	31.4%	15.6%	9.3%	11.5%	12.6%
Group ROEV (%)	23.9%	14.1%	5.0%	5.6%	11.1%
P&C combined ratio (%)	96.4%	99.2%	97.7%	97.3%	96.9%
Banking net profit growth (%)	13.5%	2.6%	26.9%	22.4%	23.1%
Dividend payout ratio (%)	25.0%	28.0%	39.9%	29.0%	29.5%

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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Ping An Insurance (2318 HK)



Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2021, Anti-Corruption 2021

ADVANC - Excellent, Certified, AMATA - Excellent, Certified, ANAN - Excellent, n/a, AOT - Excellent, n/a, AP - Excellent, Certified, ASP -Excellent, n/a, AWC - Excellent, Declared, AU - Good, n/a, BAM - Very Good, Certified, BAY - Excellent, Certified, BBL - Excellent, Certified, BCH - Very Good, Certified, BCP - Excellent, Certified, BCPG - Excellent, Certified, BDMS - Excellent, n/a, BEAUTY - Good, n/a, BEM -Excellent, n/a BH - Good, n/a, BJC - Very Good, n/a, BLA - Very Good, Certified, BTS - Excellent, Certified, CBG - Very Good, n/a, CCET - n/a, n/a, CENTEL - Excellent, Certified, CHAYO - Very Good, n/a, CHG - Very Good, n/a, CK - Excellent, n/a, COM7 - Excellent, Certified, CPALL -Excellent, Certified, CPF - Excellent, Certified, CPN - Excellent, Certified, CPNREIT - n/a, n/a, CRC - Excellent, Declared, DELTA - Excellent, Certified, DDD - Excellent, n/a, DIF - n/a, n/a, DOHOME - Very Good, Declared, DREIT - n/a, n/a, DTAC - Excellent, Certified, ECL - Excellent, Certified, EGCO - Excellent, Certified, EPG - Excellent, Certified, ERW - Very Good, Certified, GFPT - Excellent, Certified, GGC - Excellent, Certified, GLOBAL - Excellent, n/a, HANA - Excellent, Certified, HMPRO - Excellent, Certified, HUMAN - Good, n/a, ICHI - Excellent, Certified, III - Excellent, Declared, INTUCH - Excellent, Certified, IRPC - Excellent, Certified, ITD - Very Good, n/a, IVL - Excellent, Certified, JASIF - n/a, n/a, JKN - n/a, Certified, JMT - Very Good, n/a, KBANK - Excellent, Certified, KCE - Excellent, Certified, KEX - Very Good, Declared, KKP - Excellent, Certified, KSL - Excellent, Certified, KTB - Excellent, Certified, KTC - Excellent, Certified, LH - Excellent, n/a, LPN - Excellent, Certified, M - Very Good, Certified, MAKRO - Excellent, Certified, MC - Excellent, Certified, MEGA - Very Good, n/a, MINT - Excellent, Certified, MTC - Excellent, Certified, NETBAY - Very Good, n/a, NRF - Very Good, Declared, OR - Excellent, n/a, ORI - Excellent, Certified, OSP - Excellent, n/a, PLANB -Excellent, Certified, PRINC - Very Good, Certified, PR9 - Excellent, Declared, PSH - Excellent, Certified, PTT - Excellent, Certified, PTTEP -Excellent, n/a, PTTGC - Excellent, Certified, QH - Excellent, Certified, RAM - n/a, n/a, RBF - Very Good, n/a, RS - Excellent, Declared, RSP -Good, n/a, S - Excellent, n/a, SAK - Very Good, Declared, SAPPE - Very Good, Certified, SAWAD - Very Good, n/a, SCB - Excellent, Certified, SCC - Excellent, Certified, SCGP - Excellent, Declared, SECURE - n/a, n/a, SHR - Excellent, n/a, SIRI - Excellent, Certified, SPA - Very Good, n/a, SPALI - Excellent, Certified, SPRC - Excellent, Certified, SSP - Good, Certified, STEC - Excellent, n/a, SVI - Excellent, Certified, SYNEX -Very Good, Certified, TCAP - Excellent, Certified, THANI - Excellent, Certified, TIDLOR - n/a, Certified TISCO - Excellent, Certified, TKN - Very Good, n/a, TOP - Excellent, Certified, TRUE - Excellent, Certified, TTB - Excellent, Certified, TU - Excellent, Certified, TVO - Excellent, Certified, VGI - Excellent, Certified, WHA - Excellent, Certified, WHART - n/a, n/a, WICE - Excellent, Certified, WORK - Good, n/a.

- CG Score 2021 from Thai Institute of Directors Association (IOD)
- Companies participating in Thailand's Private Sector Collective Action Coalition Against Corruption programme (Thai CAC) under Thai Institute of Directors (as of August 5, 2021) are categorised into: companies that have declared their intention to join CAC, and companies certified by CAC.

Recommendation	Framework
Stock Ratings	Definition:
Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.
	turn of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.
Sector Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
Country Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means investors should be positioned with an above-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means investors should be positioned with a below-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.

