

# Quantitative Monographs

## How to pick stocks in China's domestic market – from a quant perspective

### Equities

Global  
Quantitative

#### Our first quant alpha model for China's domestic market

We introduce a static six-factor model, attempting to mimic a typical selection process for an investor seeking stocks with attractive valuation, quality and earning profiles. The six factors we use are Earnings Yield, Book to Price, ROE, Three-month Return Volatility, Three-month Earnings Momentum and Earnings certainty. We believe the model is simple and transparent and back-testing suggests strong performance over the past decade.

#### A defensive model to weather storms and turbulence

Back-testing shows the model would have delivered much stronger performance in down markets. A Top 10 basket would have outperformed the market by 32% (pre-cost per annum) during down markets compared with 8% (pre-cost per annum) in up markets. The model benefits from the stronger diversification effect among the six factors during down markets; and the stocks selected by the model naturally tilt towards large-cap and low-volatility names.

#### Issues in the real world

We look beyond the paper portfolio and incorporate some of the major issues we would face in reality, including transaction costs, suspensions, and price limits. After taking into account the impact of all three in our back-testing, the model would have still delivered strong returns. After costs, a Top 10 basket would have outperformed the benchmark by 13.5% per annum.

#### Monthly screen

The portfolio is rebalanced on a monthly basis and we will publish a model update and screen at the beginning of each month.

**Figure 1: What does the model say at the moment (as of end December 2016)**

Ticker	Company Name	Industry	P/BV	PE	ROE (%)
601166	INDUSTRIAL BANK CO LTD -A	Financials	0.8	5.6	15.1
600177	YOUNGOR GROUP CO-A	Real Estate	1.4	8.3	16.9
600066	ZHENGZHOU YUTONG BUS CO -A	Industrials	2.5	9.8	27.5
601939	CHINA CONSTRUCTION BANK-A	Financials	0.8	5.8	13.7
600060	HISENSE ELECTRIC CO LTD-A	Consumer Discretionary	1.5	10.9	13.7
600036	CHINA MERCHANTS BANK-A	Financials	1.0	6.7	15.3
601398	IND & COMM BK OF CHINA-A	Financials	0.7	5.7	13.7
600064	NANJING GAOKE CO LTD-A	Real Estate	1.2	9.3	17.1
601988	BANK OF CHINA LTD-A	Financials	0.7	5.8	11.7
601818	CHINA EVERBRIGHT BANK CO-A	Financials	0.7	5.8	12.9

Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

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# Summary

Since we launched our coverage of China A-shares, one of the most-asked questions has been how to pick stocks. In this report, we introduce a six-factor stock scoring model, seeking stocks with an attractive valuation, quality, and earning profiles. The six factors we use are shown in Figure 2.

**A static six-factor model mimicking a typical stock selection process**

**Figure 2: Six-factor model**

Value	Quality	Earnings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earnings Yield</li> <li>Book to Price</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROE</li> <li>Three-month Return Volatility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three-month Earnings Momentum</li> <li>Earnings Certainty</li> </ul>

Source: UBS Quantitative Research

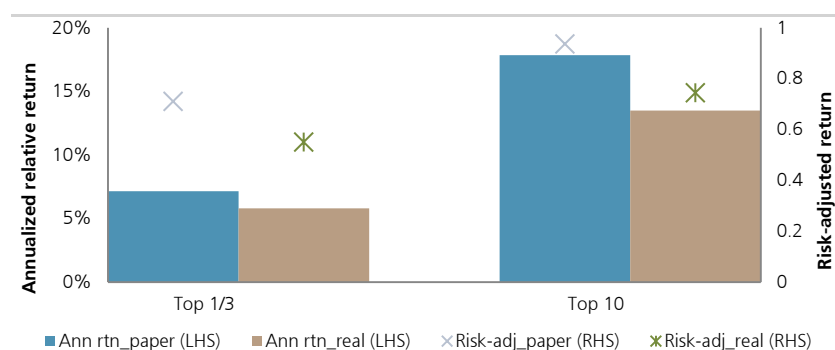
We take a balanced stance between the two factors in each category and among the three categories by assigning equal weights to each factor pair and assigning equal weights to the composite scores of the three categories.

Back-testing shows the model would have produced strong performance over the past decade, especially during down markets. It tends to pick stocks with larger market capitalizations and lower return volatilities.

Besides the paper portfolio, we also took a step further and considered the impact of transaction costs, suspensions, and price limits in our back-testing. The 'real' portfolio after taking into account these effects would have still generated strong returns.

**A defensive model with strong performance even after considering the impact of transaction costs, suspensions, and price limits in our back-testing**

**Figure 3: Back-testing the model's relative performance the past decade**



Note: The back-test is run on MSCI China A universe and the relative performance is calculated against this benchmark. The 'real' portfolio refers to the portfolios that take into account transaction costs, suspensions, and price limits; the 'paper' portfolio refers to the portfolios that do not. For the Top 10 real portfolio, we apply a buffer of 20 stocks. See on page 10 for details.

Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

# Static multifactor alpha model – a transparent box

Since we launched our coverage of China A-shares, one of the most-asked questions has been how to pick stocks. The common top-down approach in practice is to screen stocks based on various criteria, aiming to capture stocks with desired characteristics.

In this report, we introduce a multi-factor stock-scoring model. The model attempts to mimic a typical selection process for an investor seeking stocks with attractive valuations, quality, and earning profiles.

## A simple six-factor static model

In developing the model, we sought to balance intuition, performance, and practicality. We start with a static model. A complicated dynamic model may produce higher returns, but it is less transparent and may also induce high turnover, which in turn would dampen performance in practice. We try to select the factors that fit investors' investment intuition, instead of simply picking the factors that have performed the best in the past. Our model is based on a combination of six factors, belonging to the value, quality, and earnings categories:

- Value: Earnings Yield, Book to Price
- Quality: ROE, Three-month Return Volatility
- Earnings: Three-month Earnings Momentum, Earnings Certainty

We do not include the size and price-reversal factors in our model even though they have been two of the best-performing factor categories over the past decade<sup>1</sup>. As different investors may have different investment mandates and size restrictions, we do not want to build a small-cap tilt into our model.

The price-reversal effect is strong and is unique to the China domestic market. This is at least partially driven by the investor structure and behavior in the market. Retail investors, who have dominated the market, usually have very short holding periods. As the market further develops, the investor structure may change and investors may also become more sophisticated. Whether this reversal effect will last forever is questionable. And, last but not least, the high turnover in a price-reversal strategy leads to high trading costs. The performance may look good on paper, but in practice it is not.

By combining the six factors mentioned above, we aim to look for stocks with transparent and improving earnings, good profitability, stable price performance, and reasonable valuation.

The model grades stocks according to these six factors and provides an aggregate score of a stock's attractiveness compared with that of other stocks in the market (see the [Appendix](#) for details on the calculation of scores).

Balance between intuition, performance, and practicality

Why not small cap and price reversal?

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<sup>1</sup> For single-factor performance, please see our 24 October 2016 report: [China domestic market—alpha opportunity for quantitative investors](#)

## Is there a diversification effect?

One of the benefits of using a multi-factor model is diversification. The average rank coefficients between the factor blocks are very close to zero and slightly negative (see Figure 4). It suggests that each of the factor blocks does pick up different information on the stocks.

**Figure 5: Average rank correlation between factor blocks<sup>2</sup>**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

Looking through time, one major period when the rank correlation stayed positive was from end of 2013 until mid-2015. During this period, the rank correlation among all three pairs (i.e., the value-quality pair, the value-earnings pair, and the quality-earnings pair) was mostly positive, and as a result the diversification effect was not as good (see Figure 5). What is more, we found a general positive correlation between the rank correlation and market performance. In other words, the diversification effect is strong when the market performance is bad, and vice versa.

## Back-testing the model's performance

We back-tested two models in the MSCI China A index universe, one with a composite score, one with a delta score, (i.e., the month-over-month changes of the composite score). We rebalanced the portfolios on a monthly basis and the calculated performance using market-cap-weight. We found both models would have delivered reasonably good performance during the back-test period. For the delta score especially, performance improved significantly for the past five years.

**Figure 4: Rank correlation between factor blocks**

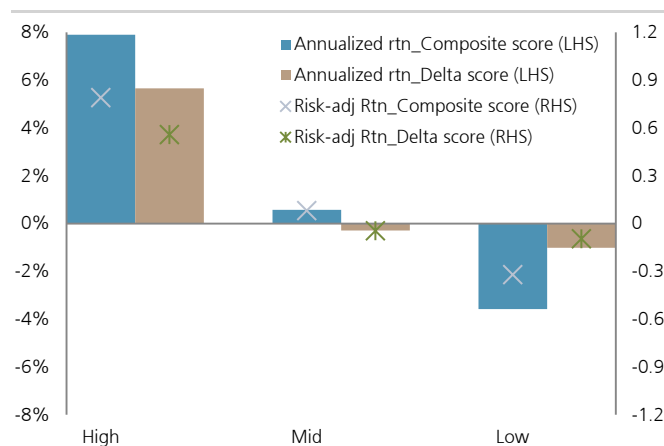
	Quality	Earnings
Value	-0.005	-0.009
Quality		-0.007

Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

**Diversification effect is strong during a down market**

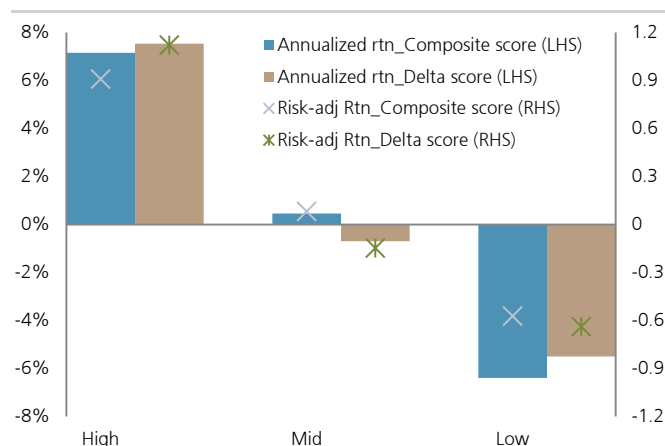
<sup>2</sup> Average rank correlation between factor blocks is the average of rank correlation between Value-Quality, Value-Earnings, and Quality-Earnings pairs. We report the 12-month moving average on the monthly time series.

**Figure 6: Back-testing relative performance since 2006**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

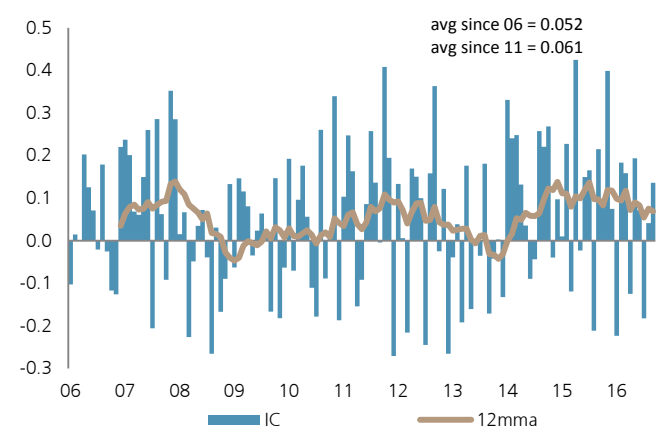
**Figure 7: Back-testing relative performance since 2011**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

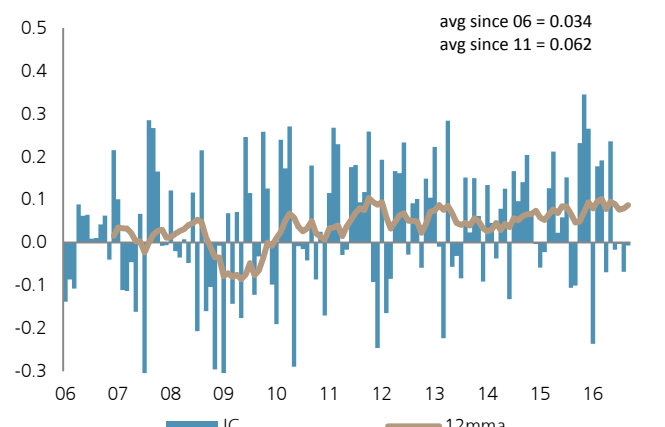
The information coefficient (IC) between the scores and the subsequent month's returns has been generally above zero. For both models, the IC improved for the past five years.

**Figure 8: IC for Composite scores**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

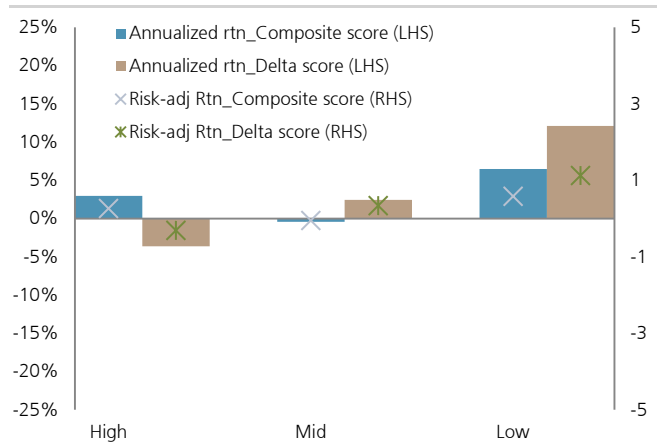
**Figure 9: IC for Delta scores**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

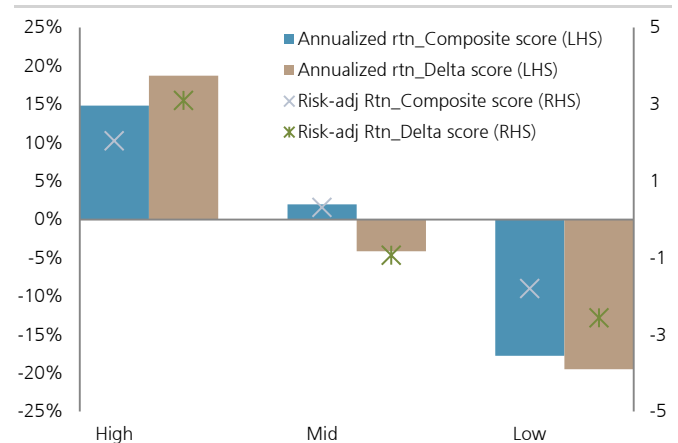
We then back-tested the models' performances under different market conditions. We found that both models would have generated strong excess returns during down markets (defined as the months when index returns are negative). During up markets (defined as the months when index returns are positive) the stocks with low scores also outperformed, but with a smaller return. The weak performance in up markets is due mainly to the dislocation during late 2008 to mid-2009, when most of the quant models underperformed.

**Figure 10: Up market**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 11: Down market**

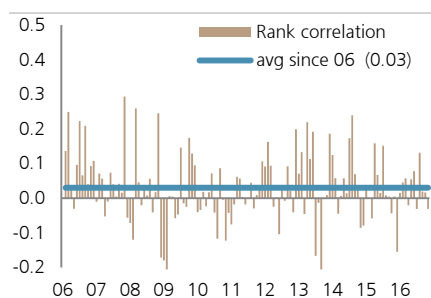


Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

## Are the composite score and the delta score the same?

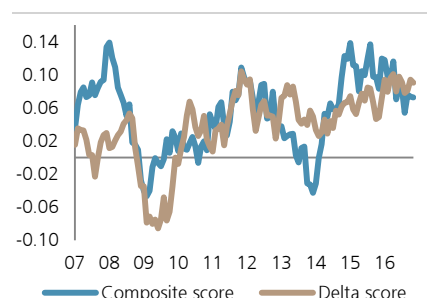
To answer this question, we first look at the rank correlation between these two scores. As expected, we see generally positive, but low, rank correlations (see Figure 12). We then compare the predictability of these two scores by comparing the IC of the scores and subsequent one-month returns (see Figure 13). The IC of these two scores deviated from each other from period to period. Back-testing during 2007 and 2008, the composite score had much better IC, while back-testing during 2012 and 2013 the delta score predicted the subsequent returns better. Lastly, we back-tested the performance of intersections of these two models (see Figure 14). The returns within the intersection analysis are generally monotonic with intersections improving the returns.

**Figure 12: Rank correlation between composite score and delta score**



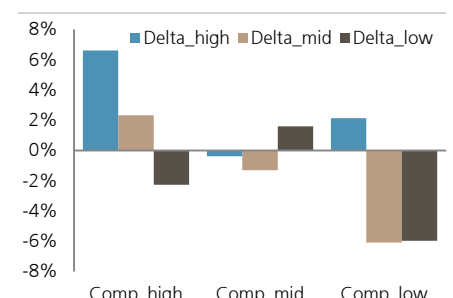
Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 13: IC (12mma) between scores and subsequent one-month return**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 14: Relative performance for intersections**



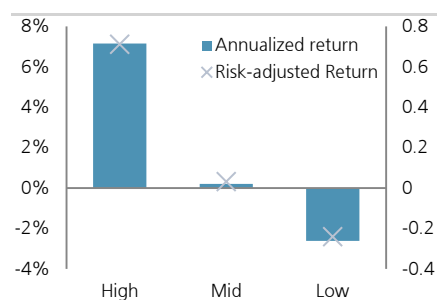
Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

In a nutshell, these two scores generate certain un-correlated alpha. By combining them, we form our final models.

## Final model

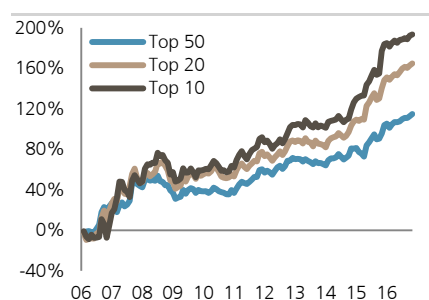
We combine the composite score and delta score by taking the simple average of the ranks of these two scores to form our final score. We look at the performances of the regular high-, mid-, and low-score baskets, as well as the top 10, 20, and 50 stocks. The latter group are, in practice, more interesting if you are looking for a basket to trade. The portfolios are rebalanced on a monthly basis and the returns are calculated using market-cap weight (see Figure 15 to Figure 17).

**Figure 15: Back-testing relative performance since 2006**



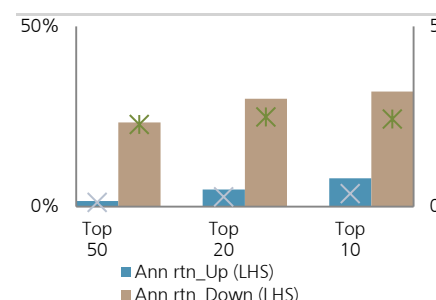
Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 16: Back-testing relative performance for top 10/20/50 names**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 17: Back-testing relative performance under different market conditions**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

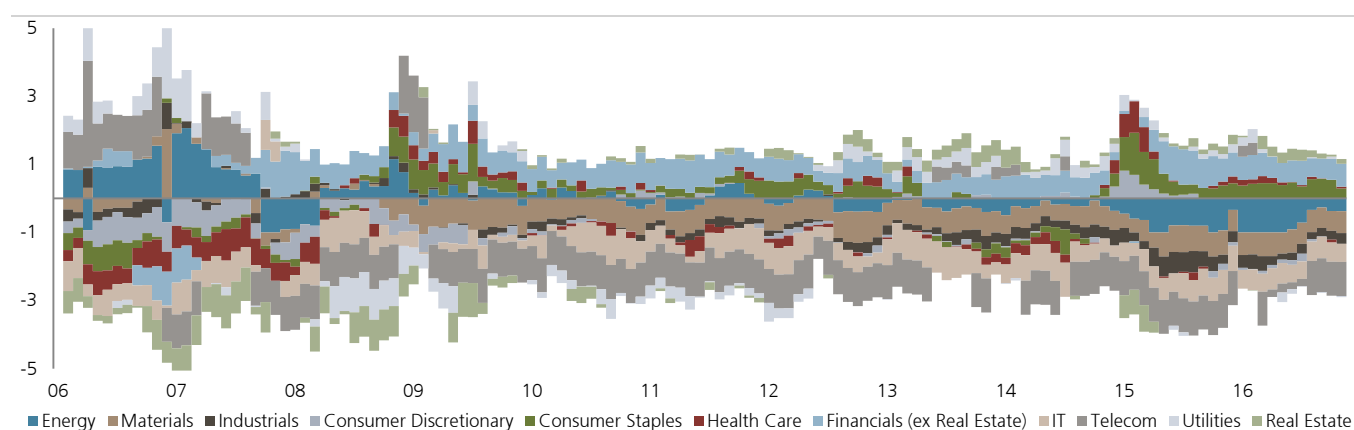
Back-testing shows the model would have delivered extremely strong returns during down markets, while the performance in up markets is not as significant. The major setback for the model is from August 2008 to February 2009, when the market rebounded from a trough. Overall, back-testing shows the model performed well over the past decade. Over the past five years especially, back-testing shows the top 10/20/50 baskets would have delivered annual relative returns of more than 10%, with risk-adjusted returns greater than 1.

## Digging into details

### Sector composition

Sector rotation contributes a meaningful portion of alpha in the Chinese domestic market. As a result, we do not apply a sector-neutrality in our model. Currently, the model is most overweight Financials and Consumer Staples and most underweight Telecommunication Services, IT and Materials (see Figure 18).

**Figure 18: Adjusted relative sector weight for the top basket<sup>3</sup>**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

<sup>3</sup> The adjusted relative weight is calculated as (sector weight in top basket – sector weight in the index)/sector weight in the index.

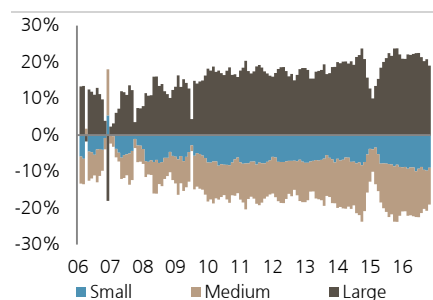


## Size tilt

Small cap has been one of the best-performing styles in the market over the past decade. However, we do not want to build the small-cap tilt into our model for the reason mentioned at the beginning of the report. Our model actually tilts towards large caps most of the time (see Figure 19).

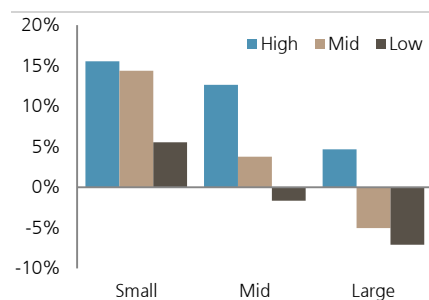
With a natural large-cap tilt

**Figure 19: Adjusted relative weight across size bands for the top-third basket<sup>4</sup>**



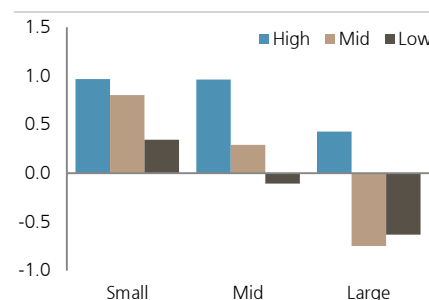
Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 20: Relative performance within different size bands**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 21: Risk-adjusted performance within different size bands**



Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

Notably there was a period towards the end of 2006 when the portfolio experienced a large degree of size rotation. By the end of December 2006, it was overweight small caps and underweight large caps. This was driven mainly by the strong performance of large-cap financial (ex-real estates) names. From the previous section we can see that the financial sector has been constantly overweight in our portfolio due to its low valuation and the value component of our score. The strong performance during the last few months of 2006 pushed the valuation of these financial stocks higher and, as a result, they rotated out of the portfolio. At the same time, materials and industrial stocks, which are normally smaller, rotated into the basket. The positions were unwound rapidly in the subsequent few months.

A large-cap tilt is a desirable feature. Nevertheless, if the investors are able to invest in the smaller section of the market, the model could deliver even stronger excess returns (see Figure 20 and Figure 21). Here we firstly divide the universe equally among large-, mid-, and small-sized bands according to the market cap, and then apply the model within each of the size bands. Investing in stocks with the highest third of the score within small caps yields a 16% annualized relative return during our back-test period, compared with a 7% annualized relative return if you invest in the top third of stocks in the whole universe.

Back-testing shows the model would have delivered stronger performance in small-cap universe

<sup>4</sup> The adjusted relative weight is calculated as (size weight in top basket – size weight in the index)/size weight in the index.

# Distance between theory and reality

Does the model look good only on paper? In reality, we face several challenges. We are going to address the major ones in the following sections.

## Turnover and transaction costs

High turnover is a common shortcoming for a lot of quant strategies. The turnover for our model is shown in Figure 22. We now apply the following transaction costs to the model and compare the performance before and after costs (see [Appendix](#) for more details):

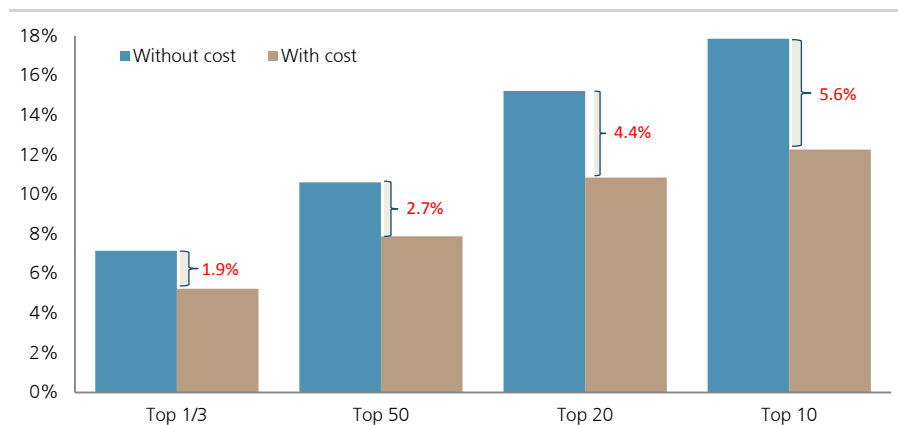
- Sell transaction: 60 bps ( = 20bps commission fee + 10bps stamp duty + 30bps price impact)
- Buy transaction: 50 bps ( = 20bps commission fee + 30bps price impact)

**Figure 22: Monthly two-way turnover**

	Top 1/3	Top 50	Top 20	Top 10
Turnover	30%	42%	66%	85%

Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 23: Performance comparison – without cost vs. with cost**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

The turnover increases as the size of the portfolio decreases, and hence the impact of the transaction cost increases. Nevertheless, the Top 10 basket still delivered a 12% annual relative return over the back-test period (see Figure 23).

## Turnover reduction solution

There are many ways to reduce turnover. The simplest one is to set a buffer. For example, for the Top 10 basket, if we set the buffer at 50, as long as the rank of a stock does not fall out of the top 50, we keep it in the portfolio. The turnover was significantly reduced after applying the buffer (see Figure 24).

**Figure 24: Turnover ratio of top 10, 20, and 50 portfolio**

	Top 10	Top 20	Top 50
Original strategy	85%	66%	42%
Buffer by top 50	26%	29%	
Buffer by top 20	69%		

Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

The lower the buffer level (i.e., the larger the number of stocks used for the buffer), the lower the turnover and therefore the cost but, of course, the worse the pre-cost performance. For example, for Top 20 basket, if we set the buffer at

50, the pre-cost back-testing performance falls to 13% from 15%, but the post-cost back-testing performance for the buffered version is the same as for the non-buffered version, namely 11%. For the Top 10 basket, if we set a tighter buffer of 20, the pre-cost back-testing performance does not change much and, due to the cost reduction, the post-cost back-testing performance for the buffer version actually increases slightly, from 12% to 13% (see Figure 25).

**Figure 25: Annualized relative back-testing performance comparison**

			No buffer	Buffer by 20	Buffer by 50
Top 20	Annualized return	Without cost	15%		13%
		With cost	11%		11%
	Risk-adjusted return	Without cost	0.95		0.75
		With cost	0.68		0.64
Top 10	Annualized return	Without cost	18%	18%	11%
		With cost	12%	13%	10%
	Risk-adjusted return	Without cost	0.94	0.98	0.63
		With cost	0.64	0.73	0.54

Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

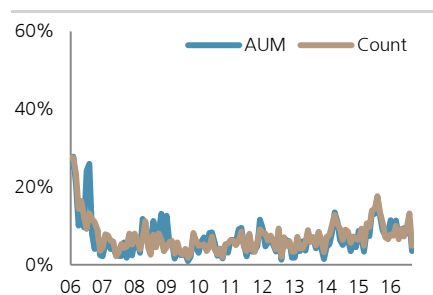
Generally speaking, depending on the market liquidity, cost level and the size of the portfolio, there should be an optimal point.

## Suspension

Large numbers of suspensions may lead to problems. The most memorable event in China's domestic market would be the large number of suspensions that happened in summer 2015. Turbulence in the equity market forced the managements of listed companies to suspend trading in their companies' stocks in order to avoid the share price crash. On 9 July 2015, 1,437 out of 2,777 stocks on the A-share market were suspended.

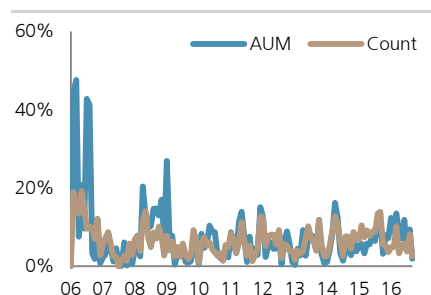
The impact of suspension comes when we build up or rebalance the portfolio. When building a theoretical portfolio, we simply rank all the stocks in the universe and rebalance based on that, without considering whether the stocks are suspended at the rebalancing day. Here we rebuild the portfolio taking into account the impact of suspension. At the rebalancing day, we rank only the non-suspended stocks and take the top one-third, 50, 20, or 10 into the portfolios. Of course, the stocks that are suspended and that are already in the portfolios will remain as well.

**Figure 26: % of suspension - MSCI China A index universe**



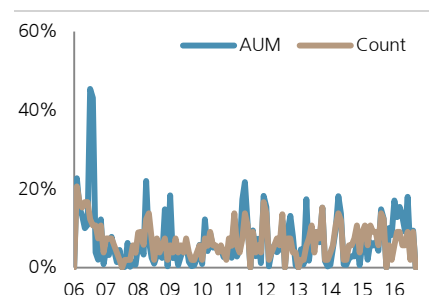
Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 27: % of suspension – Top-third basket**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 28: % of suspension - Top 50 basket**

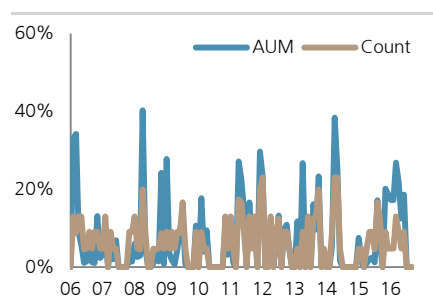


Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

On average less than 10% of stocks in the MSCI China A index universe were suspended at the last working day of the months (which is our rebalancing day)

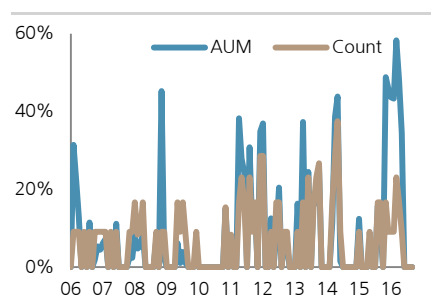
during our back-test period. In the summer of 2015 during the turmoil in the China market, the percentage increased and peaked at 17% (see Figure 26).

**Figure 29: % of suspension - Top 20 basket**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

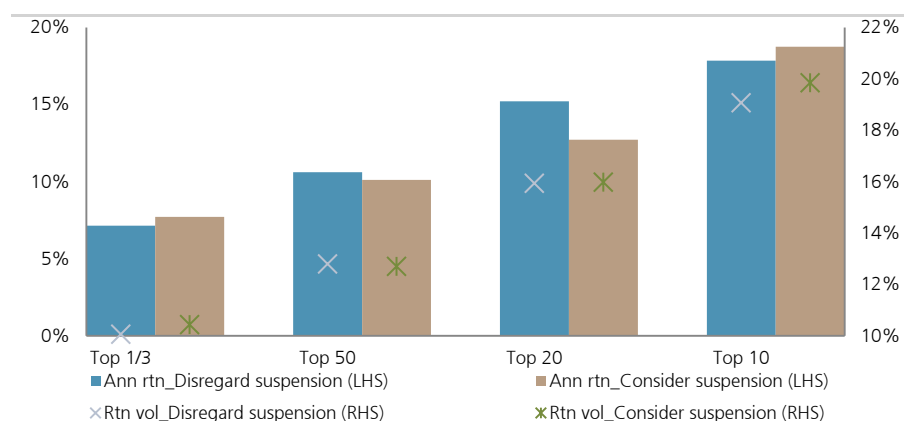
**Figure 30: % of suspension - Top 10 basket**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

The percentage of suspensions in the portfolio increases as the size of the portfolio decreases. For the Top 10 baskets, the highest percentage in terms of number of stocks suspended reached 37.5%, and the highest percentage in terms of AUM was 58.3%.

**Figure 31: Impact of suspension – performance comparison**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

The impact to the annualized relative returns varied. The annualized relative returns for the top one-third barely changed; the returns declined for the Top 20 and Top 50 baskets, and increased slightly for the Top 10 basket. Nevertheless, the return volatility increased for most of the portfolio, suggesting that suspensions resulted in instability in its performance (see Figure 31).

## Price limit

Since 16 December 1996, the Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges have both operated a  $\pm 10\%$  price limit. Except for the IPO day, a stock price cannot change by more than 10% from the previous day's closing price. Once the price hits that limit, investors can still buy or sell the stock, but need to buy or sell at a price within the 10% range. Therefore, in practice, once a stock's price hits the +10% limit, more purchases will not be possible in the market; similarly, selling will no longer be available when price hits the -10% limit. Bid or ask prices will be limited until the end of trading hours. The limit will be reset on the following trading day.

## Suspension caused instability in performance

### Rules on price limit

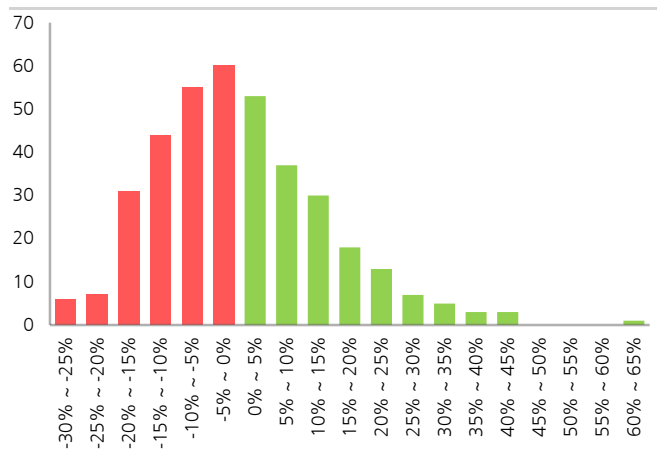
**Figure 32: Summary statistics for historical limit-up and limit-down**

	Limit up	Limit down
Count	373	230
Median subsequent one-month relative return	-1.4%	1.2%

Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

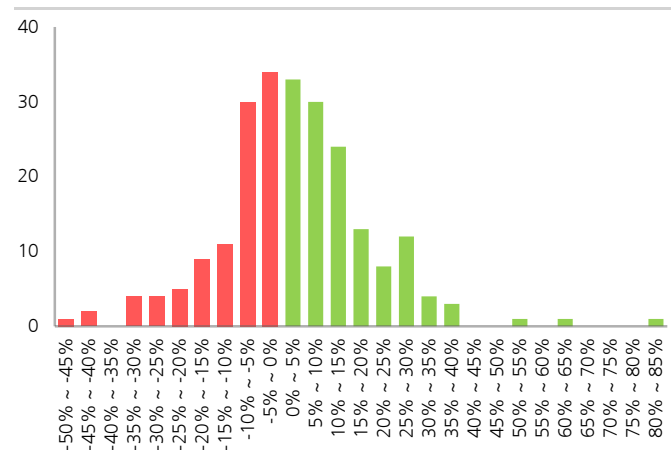
During our back-test period, 373 limit-up cases and 230 limit-down cases happened on the rebalancing day for the MSCI China A index universe. Due to the price-reversal effect, limit-up stocks tended to underperform the benchmark in the subsequent month, whilst limit-down stocks tended to outperform the benchmark.

**Figure 33: Distribution for subsequent one-month returns – limit up**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 34: Distribution for subsequent one-month returns – limit down**



Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

As a result, when we take into account the impact of the price limit (i.e. keep the limit-down stocks as they cannot be sold in practice and do not buy the limit-up stocks as they cannot be bought) in our back-testing, the performance actually improved slightly.

**Figure 35: Back-testing impact of price limit – performance comparison**

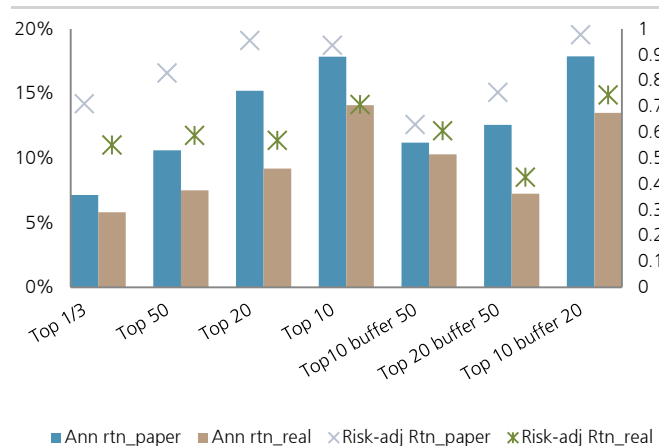


Source: Wind, MSCI, UBS Quantitative Research

## Putting everything together

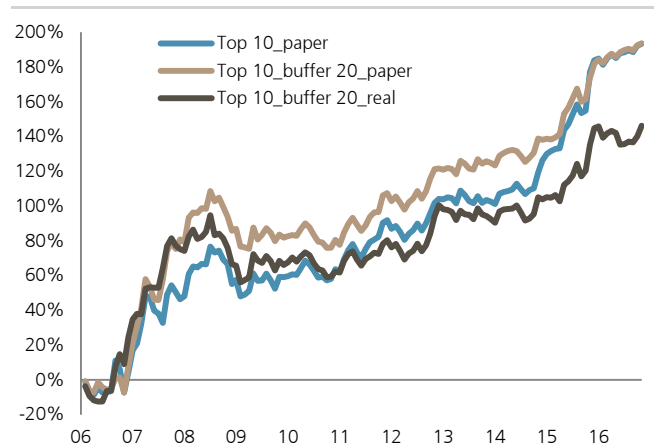
Our model now takes into account transaction costs, suspensions, and price limits. Back-testing after costs, the Top 10 baskets with buffer level 20 in the real settings would have yielded 13.5% relative annualized returns in the back-test period.

**Figure 36: Back-testing performance comparison – paper portfolio versus real portfolio**



Source: Wind, FactSet, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 37: Back-testing historical cumulative relative performance for the Top 10 names**



Source: Wind, FactSet, UBS Quantitative Research

## What does the model suggest at the moment?

**Figure 38: Top 20 names suggested by the model (as of end December 2016)**

Ticker	Company Name	Sector	Fwd P/BV	Fwd PE	Fwd ROE (%)
601166	INDUSTRIAL BANK CO LTD -A	Financials	0.8	5.6	15.1
600177	YOUNGOR GROUP CO-A	Real Estate	1.4	8.3	16.9
600066	ZHENGZHOU YUTONG BUS CO -A	Industrials	2.5	9.8	27.5
601939	CHINA CONSTRUCTION BANK-A	Financials	0.8	5.8	13.7
600060	HISENSE ELECTRIC CO LTD-A	Consumer Discretionary	1.5	10.9	13.7
600036	CHINA MERCHANTS BANK-A	Financials	1.0	6.7	15.3
601398	IND & COMM BK OF CHINA-A	Financials	0.7	5.7	13.7
600064	NANJING GAOKE CO LTD-A	Real Estate	1.2	9.3	17.1
601988	BANK OF CHINA LTD-A	Financials	0.7	5.8	11.7
601818	CHINA EVERBRIGHT BANK CO-A	Financials	0.7	5.8	12.9
002508	HANGZHOU ROBAM APPLIANCES-A	Consumer Discretionary	5.2	18.0	30.3
600104	SAIC MOTOR CORP LTD-A	Consumer Discretionary	1.2	7.2	17.9
600153	XIAMEN C & D INC-A	Industrials	1.2	9.2	13.2
600309	WANHUA CHEMICAL GROUP CO -A	Materials	2.6	11.5	22.3
000001	PING AN BANK CO LTD-A	Financials	0.8	6.3	12.2
601377	INDUSTRIAL SECURITIES CO-A	Financials	1.8	14.4	15.4
002244	HANGZHOU BINJIANG REAL EST-A	Real Estate	1.5	12.2	15.3
600519	KWEICHOW MOUTAI CO LTD-A	Consumer Staples	4.7	20.8	23.5
002573	BEIJING SPC ENVIRONMENT-A	Industrials	4.2	18.8	22.7
000538	YUNNAN BAIYAO GROUP CO LTD-A	Health Care	4.1	22.5	18.6

Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

**Figure 39: Bottom 20 names suggested by the model (as of end December 2016)**

Ticker	Company Name	Industry	Fwd P/BV	Fwd PE	Fwd ROE (%)
002266	ZHEFU HOLDING GROUP CO LTD-A	Industrials	4.5	30.3	7.9
002298	ANHUI SINONET & XONGLONG SCI	Industrials	2.3	60.8	4.3
603993	CHINA MOLYBDENUM CO LTD-A	Materials	4.0	46.4	5.0
600862	AVIC AVIATION HIGH-TECHNOL-A	Industrials	4.8	75.6	5.9
600896	LANHAI MEDICAL INVESTMENT -A	Industrials	2.7	-	-5.2
600428	COSCO SHIPPING SPECIALIZED-A	Industrials	1.3	96.1	1.5
600005	WUHAN IRON & STEEL CO LTD-A	Materials	1.2	95.5	1.2
600198	DATANG TELECOM TECH CO-A	Information Technology	3.0	38.3	7.9
002570	BEINGMATE BABY & CHILD FO-A	Consumer Staples	3.9	123.8	2.8
002155	HUNAN GOLD CORP LTD-A	Materials	3.8	75.3	5.1
600289	BRIGHT OCEANS INTER-TELECO-A	Information Technology	3.5	50.3	6.3
600050	CHINA UNITED NETWORK-A	Telecommunication Services	1.5	45.2	4.3
002283	TIANRUN CRANKSHAFT CO -A	Industrials	2.5	35.4	6.1
600759	GEO-JADE PETROLEUM CORP-A	Energy	2.4	52.9	6.1
600410	BEIJING TEAMSUN TECHNOLOGY-A	Information Technology	3.8	89.9	2.0
002073	MESNAC CO LTD -A	Industrials	2.4	54.8	6.0
002577	SHENZHEN RAPOO TECHNOLOGY -A	Information Technology	6.8	78.2	8.2
002251	BETTER LIFE COMMERCIAL CHA-A	Consumer Staples	2.3	57.8	4.2
000519	NORTH INDUSTRIES GROUP RED-A	Industrials	4.2	58.7	7.1
002312	CHENGDU SANTAI HOLDING GRP-A	Information Technology	2.7	276.9	1.0

Source: MSCI, Wind, UBS Quantitative Research

*We would like to thank Cathy Fang of UBS-S for her assistance in preparing this research report.*

# Appendix

## Calculation on composite score

Our model is based on a combination of three style categories: value, quality and earnings momentum and certainty. In each category, we choose two major factors. Factor definitions are shown as below.

**Figure 40: Factor definitions**

Type	Name	Definition
Value	Book / Price	The inverse of the 12m forward P/BV multiple
	Earnings Yield	The inverse of the 12m forward PE multiple
Quality	ROE	The 12m forward Earnings Yield / Book to Price
	Volatility 3M	Volatility of daily total returns on trading days over the past 3 months
Earnings	3M Earnings Momentum	The percentage change in forecast EPS over the previous 3 months
	EPS Coefficient of Variation	-log (the standard deviation of 12m EPS forecasts / the absolute value of average 12m EPS forecasts)

Source: UBS Quantitative Research

We calculate the composite score for each stock at each month end. The score calculation is a five-step methodology as follows:

- **Step 1:** Based on MSCI China A index, we rank the universe by each individual factor.
- **Step 2:** Calculate the average ranking in each category.

$$RANK_{i,t}^{Value} = (RANK_{i,t}^{Book/Price} + RANK_{i,t}^{Earnings Yield})/2$$

$$RANK_{i,t}^{Quality} = (RANK_{i,t}^{ROE} + RANK_{i,t}^{Volatility 3M})/2$$

$$RANK_{i,t}^{Earnings} = (RANK_{i,t}^{3M Earnings Momentum} + RANK_{i,t}^{EPS.CV})/2$$

We have two factors in each style, and if any factor data missing, for instance, if there was no consensus forecast for the forward 12-month P/BV multiple for stock  $i$  at time  $t$ , i.e.  $RANK_{i,t}^{Book/Price} = N/A$ , we will then calculate the ranking with available data, i.e.  $RANK_{i,t}^{Value} = RANK_{i,t}^{Earnings Yield}$ . If both factors are missing in the same category, the ranking will be marked as N/A and the stock  $i$  will be excluded from the portfolio at month end  $t$ . In this way, we manage to guarantee that there is at least one factor available in each of the three categories, and we cast an equal weight for each category, as below.

- **Step 3:** Composite score is the average ranking over three categories.

$$Comp Score_{i,t}^{Absolute} = (RANK_{i,t}^{Value} + RANK_{i,t}^{Quality} + RANK_{i,t}^{Earnings})/3$$

- **Step 4:** We further develop a delta score, namely, the month over month changes of the composite score.

$$Comp Score_{i,t}^{Change} = Comp Score_{i,t}^{Absolute} - Comp Score_{i,t-1}^{Absolute}$$

- **Step 5:** Our final model combines the composite score (Step 3) and the delta score (Step 4), by ranking according to the two scores, separately, and calculate the average ranking, equal weighted.

$$Comp Score_{i,t}^{Final} = (RANK_{i,t}^{Absolute} + RANK_{i,t}^{Change})/2$$



## Price impact cost

Figure 41 shows the latest price impact estimates. It varies depending on the size of the stocks and the amount traded.

**Figure 41: Latest price impact estimates**

		Amount traded (Rmb)		
		100,000	250,000	900,000
Free-float market cap of a stock (RMB)	<1bn	43	71	177
	1-2bn	20	32	77
	2-3bn	16	24	54
	3-5bn	13	19	42
	5-10bn	11	13	31
	>10bn	8	11	19
	market average	11	16	33

Source: Shanghai stock exchange

For our top one-third and top 10 portfolios, the free float market cap distributions are as follow:

**Figure 42: Statistics for free float market cap (in Rmb bn)**

		mean	median	min	10%	25%	75%	90%	max
Top 1/3	2015	74.6	30.1	3.2	8.9	14.5	67.6	161.6	1,183.8
	2016	62.9	24.1	3.8	8.9	13.5	50.9	128.3	1,129.5
Top 10	2015	135.0	81.1	18.6	25.3	33.7	148.1	299.4	527.6
	2016	201.0	116.6	25.8	37.1	57.3	226.1	439.1	760.9

Source: UBS Quantitative Research

The majority of stocks in our portfolios have a free float market cap of more than Rmb10bn, which implies a relatively low price impact when trading them. But to get a more conservative result, we take 30bps as the price-impact cost.

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<b>Neutral</b>	FSR is between -6% and 6% of the MRA.	39%	27%
<b>Sell</b>	FSR is > 6% below the MRA.	15%	16%
Short-Term Rating	Definition	Coverage <sup>3</sup>	IB Services <sup>4</sup>
<b>Buy</b>	Stock price expected to rise within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	<1%	<1%
<b>Sell</b>	Stock price expected to fall within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	<1%	<1%

Source: UBS. Rating allocations are as of 31 December 2016.

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