Financial Performance & Trends in the Telecom Industry

Telecom Report



Q3 2016

Applied Value

World Trade Center Kungsbron 1 (G2), PO Box 5047 SE-111 22 Stockholm, Sweden Phone: +46 (0)8 562 787 00

Fax: +46 (0)8 562 787 01

www.appliedvaluegroup.com

Introduction.

The purpose of this report is to track the financial performance of major players in the telecommunications industry, from Operators to Infrastructure OEMs and Mobile Device Makers.

We hope that you will find this report insightful. Our experienced team welcomes any feedback or opportunities for further discussion.

Principal Contacts

Jonas Båtelson

Telecom Practice Leader (EU)

Applied Value (Stockholm) Phone: +46 7 255 272 32

jonas.batelson@appliedvalue.com

Dan Frohm

Telecom Practice Leader (US)

Applied Value (New York)

Phone: +1 646 467 4586

dan.frohm@appliedvalue.com



Key Telecom Industry Segments.



Operators

Operators are communication service providers (CSP) and provide fixed and mobile telephony and data services to businesses and consumers















Infrastructure OEMs

Infrastructure OEMs provide communications technology including services, software and infrastructure hardware to telecom operators and others











Device OEMs

Device OEMs manufacture mobile devices and consumer electronics to businesses and consumers















1)	Summary and Key Data			
2)	Financial Trends and Performance			
	Operators			
	Infrastructure OEMs			
	Device OEMs			
3)	About Applied Value			



Report Summary.

Current trend

Operators



- Even though the margins in the operator segment fell LTM the ROIC remained stable because of improved capital efficiency
- · Overall trend is that regions converge in terms of ROIC performance (levels)

Selected key findings

- Slightly declining NOPAT and EBITDA margin trends LTM, most extensive declines in MEA and CALA
- Overall, CAPEX spend has stagnated, mainly driven by declines among Global and APAC operators
- The declining trend in Invested Capital Turnover (CTR) is reversing due to considerable improvements by CALA and CIS operators

Infrastructure **OEMs**



- Huawei is the only one of its peers to see positive ROIC development
- ZTE and Nokia have had significant deterioration to their ROIC in the last couple of years, and for Ericsson specifically in the last quarter
- Majority of OEMs have had limited organic growth over the past years; as a result companies turn to acquisitions for growth
- Ericsson's and Nokia's LTM trends are flat but performance in last quarters implies 2016 full-year margins are assumed to be lower than 2015 actuals

Device OEMs



- Apple continues to outperform peers in terms of ROIC, with Samsung a distant second
- Apple currently catch >80% of the total smartphone profits
- Revenues and profits expected to decline in 2016 due to increased saturation in mature markets
- Revenues remained flat with the exception of HTC, whose revenues decreased significantly LTM
- Profit margins have stagnated and HTCs NOPAT margin fell to -22% in the LTM



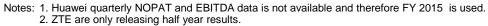
Note: LTM = Last Twelve Months.

Key Financial Metrics in Report.

Yearly Performance Table						
Metric	Industry Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	LTM
Return on	Operator	9%	10%	8%	8%	8%
Invested	Infrastructure OEMs	8%	15%	20%	22%	19%
Capital (ROIC)	Device OEMs	40%	36%	31%	37%	35%
Net Operating	Operator	11%	12%	10%	11%	10%
Profit After Taxes Margin	Infrastructure OEMs	4%	7%	8%	7%	7%
(NOPAT)	Device OEMs	11%	10%	9%	11%	10%
Invested Capital Turnover (CTR)	Operator	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
	Infrastructure OEMs	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.0	2.6
	Device OEMs	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5

Quarterly Performance Table (excluding selected operators due to lack of quarterly data)

Metric	Industry Group	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
	Operator	5%	4%	3%	1%
Sales Growth Q to Q [%]	Infrastructure OEMs	9%	-4%	-8%	-7%
	Device OEMs	-8%	-5%	-6%	0%
	Operator	10%	10%	11%	11%
NOPAT [%]	Infrastructure OEMs1	11%	4%	5%	4%
	Device OEMs	9%	10%	10%	12%
	Operator	29%	31%	32%	33%
EBITDA [%]	Infrastructure OEMs1	18%	12%	12%	11%
	Device OEMs	20%	22%	23%	24%





Summary and Key Data Financial Trends and Performance 2) **Operators Infrastructure OEMs Device OEMs About Applied Value**





We performed a financial benchmark with 49 operators, segmented by geographical scope.

North America

AT&T

Verizon

BCE

Rogers

Telus

APAC

Axiata

China Mobile

China Telecom

China Unicom

Hutchison

KDDI

KT Corp

SingTel

SK Telecom

Telstra

LG Uplus

Telkom Indonesia

Europe

ВТ

KPN

Orange

Swisscom

Tele2

Telia

Altice

Proximus

Elisa

TDC

Global

Bharti Airtel

Deutsche Telekom

NTT

Ooredoo

SoftBank

Telecom Italia

Telefonica

Telenor

Vodafone

ME & Africa

Etisalat

MTN

STC

Turkcell

Vodacom

Zain

CIS

MTS

VimpelCom

Rostelecom

Megafon

Central & Latin America

America Movil

Millicom

Oi













































Key Takeaways from Operators segment:

Long-term trend

Ability to Create Shareholder value

- The overall ROIC for the segment has declined since 2012 but level has now stabilized
- Overall trend is that regions converge in terms of ROIC performance (levels)

Margin Performance

- Operators in MEA have the highest profitability
- The overall segment profitability has declined compared to 2012 levels, with CIS and CALA operators experiencing the largest declines

Capital Efficiency

 Capital turnover has deteriorated across the industry since 2012, primarily driven by drops for operators in the MEA region

Capital Expenditure

- The increase in CAPEX stagnated after 2014 and spend has slightly declined during last years
- CAPEX is continuously increasing in the MEA region

Short-term trend

- Global and CIS operators were the only regions increasing their ROIC LTM, but region MEA keeps its position as best in class
- Deep-dive analysis shows large variation in ROIC performance among peers, with top performers typically operate in emerging markets.
- Positive profitability trend for EU, CIS and Global operators during last three quarters, but LTM levels in EU still below 2015 totals
- CALA, EU and APAC are currently the regions with lowest profitability
- Segment capital turnover rebounded during LTM, primarily driven by CIS and CALA regions, with CALA currently being best in class
- Other regions keep current levels
- The CAPEX over sales and EBITDA declined LTM, primarily driven by Global, APAC and CIS operators

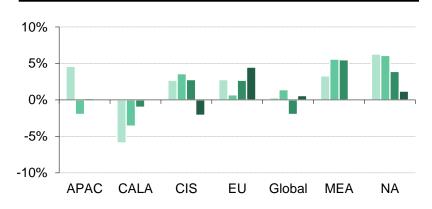
- Notes: 1. Operators in the study are estimated to cover 60-70% of the market by value.
 - 2. LTM is an abbreviation for Last Twelve Months.
 - 3. If no data is available for an operator one quarter an LTM average has been calculated based on the other quarters with data available.



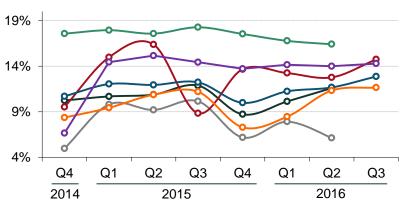


Recent quarters the CAPEX spend has remained stable and the margins for Global, EU and APAC operators have increased.

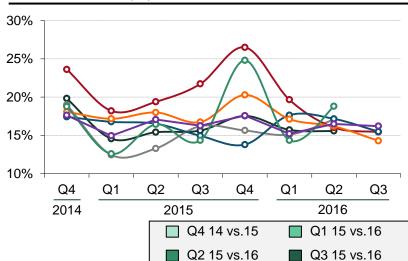
Indexed sales



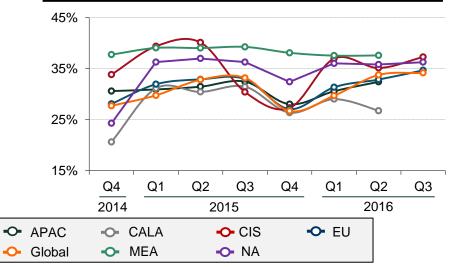
Quarterly NOPAT Margin, (%)



CAPEX / Sales, (%)



Quarterly EBITDA Margin, (%)



Notes: 1. EBIT & EBITDA are normalized to remove one-time or unusual influences.

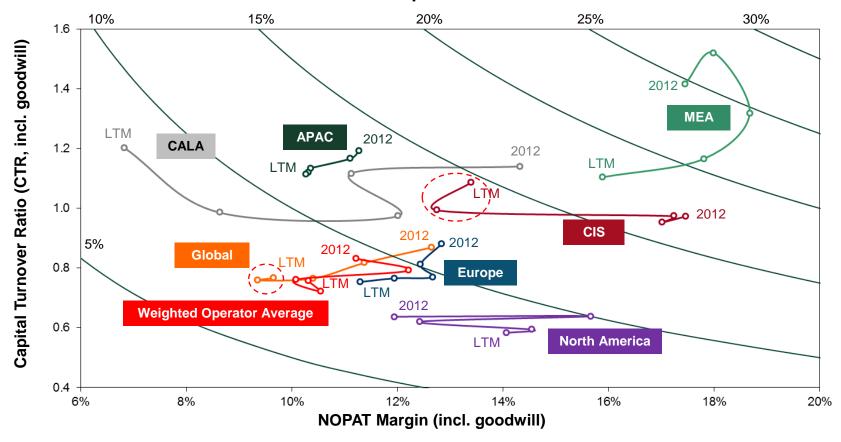
2. Q3 2016 data for APAC, CALA and MEA region has been left out since no data is available for a considerable part of the sample companies in these regions.





The Global and CIS region operators were the only ones managing to improve ROIC LTM.

ROIC Development 2012 - LTM



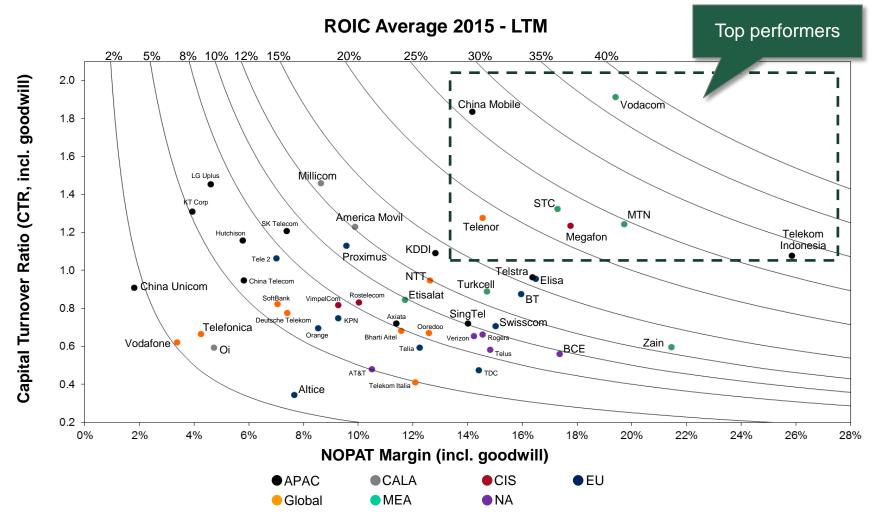
ROIC = Return on Invested Capital (actual return that the company has generated after tax)



Notes: Throughout the ROIC calculation, EBIT is normalized to remove one-time or unusual influences. Source: Capital IQ, Applied Value Analysis.



Large variation in ROIC performance among peers – top performers typically operate in emerging markets.

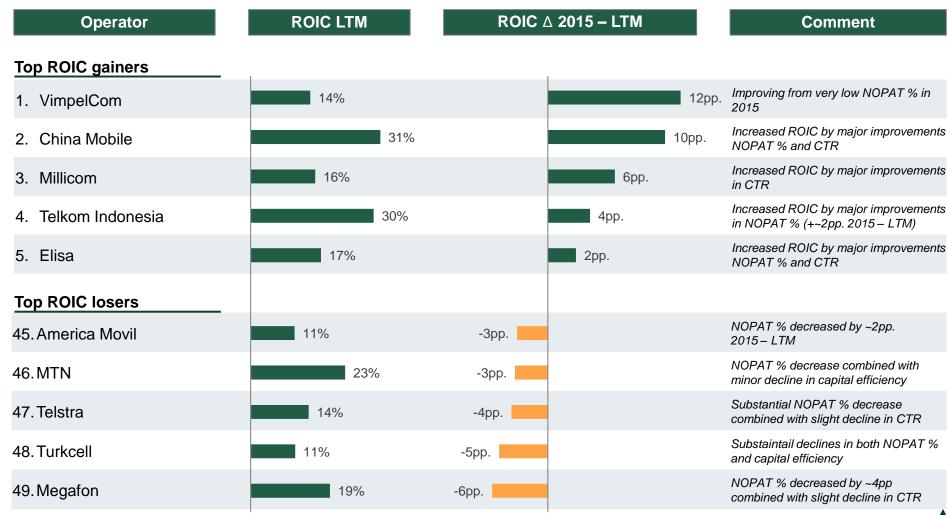


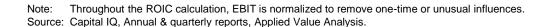
ROIC = Return on Invested Capital (actual return that the company has generated after tax)





Operators in emerging markets also experience largest shifts 2015 vs. LTM, due to both changing NOPAT and CTR.







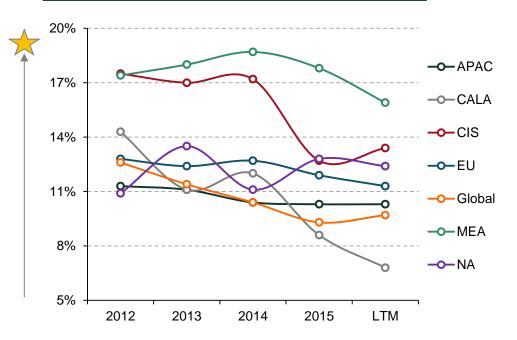


Industry NOPAT has decreased LTM; the Global, APAC and CIS operators managed to stop their negative trends.

NOPAT Margin, weighted for all companies 2012-LTM

NOPAT Margin, arithmetic average per region 2012-LTM





Note:

1. Throughout the ROIC calculation, EBIT is normalized to remove one-time or unusual influences.

2. The CALA regions poor performance LTM mainly depends on Oi.



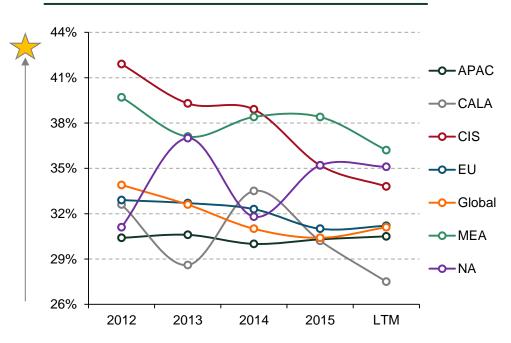


The industry EBITDA margin is slightly declining, since 2012 the CIS operators have experienced the most comprehensive decline.

EBITDA Margin, weighted for all companies 2012-LTM



EBITDA Margin, arithmetic average per region 2012-LTM





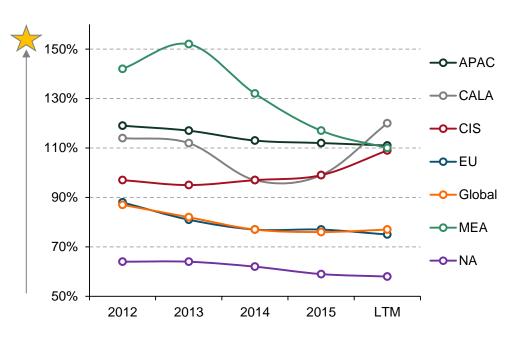


The industry invested capital turnover increased LTM for the first time since 2012, primarily driven by CALA and CIS operators.

Invested Capital Turnover, weighted for all companies 2012-LTM

Invested Capital Turnover, arithmetic average per region 2012-LTM







^{1.} Throughout the ROIC calculation, EBIT is normalized to remove one-time or unusual influences.

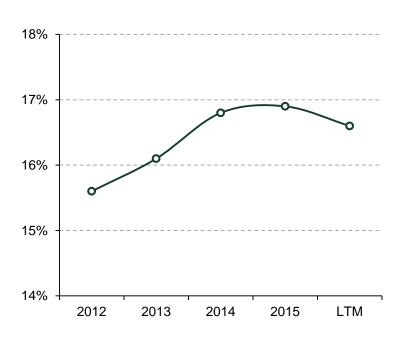


^{2.} The CALA regions poor performance LTM mainly depends on Oi.

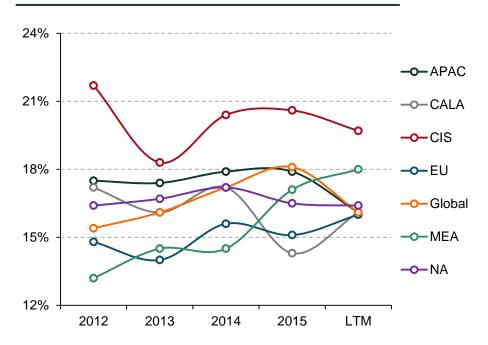


CAPEX spend in relation to sales declined LTM, driven by CIS, APAC and Global operators.

CAPEX / Sales, weighted for all companies 2012-LTM



CAPEX / Sales, arithmetic average per region 2012-LTM





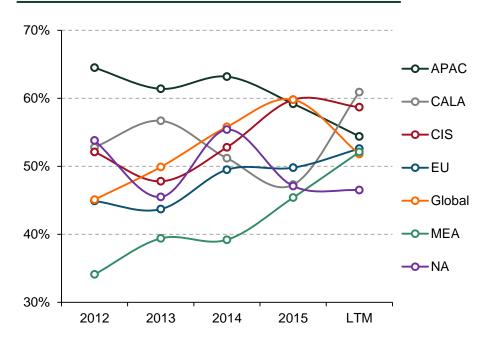


Cash generation is improving driven by APAC, Global and CIS operators.

CAPEX / EBITDA, weighted for all companies 2012-LTM



CAPEX / EBITDA, arithmetic average per region 2012-LTM



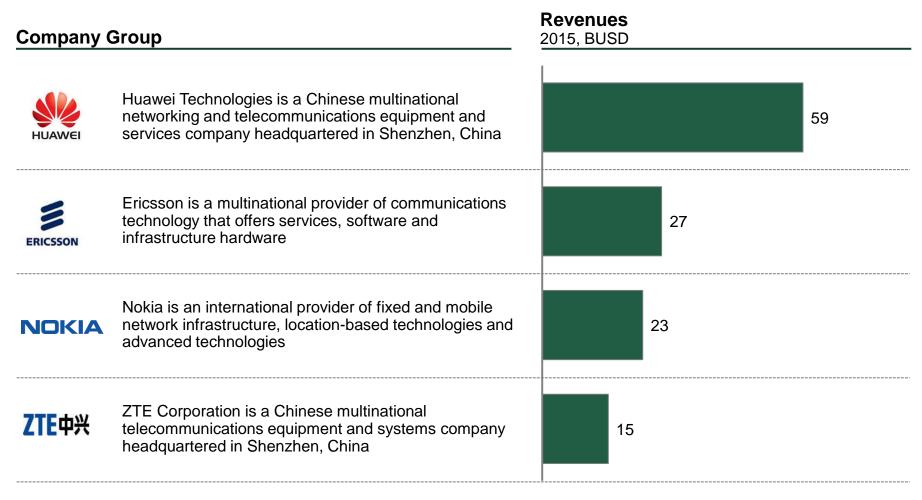


Summary and Key Data Financial Trends and Performance 2) **Operators Infrastructure OEMs Device OEMs About Applied Value**





We performed a financial benchmarking analysis comparing Huawei, Ericsson, Nokia Networks, and ZTE.





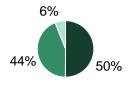
Notes: (1) Nokia data is LTM to highlight revenues from Alcatel acquisition. Source: Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.



Huawei and ZTE have significant mobile device segments while

their peers all focus on telecom infrastructure. **Business Segments** Company **Description** Carrier Network Business Carrier Network Business: Wireless/Fixed/Core Networks, Carrier SW Consumer Business · Consumer Business: Mobile Broadband/Home Devices, Smartphones Enterprise Business • Enterprise Business: ICT Products





- Networks
- Global Services
- Support Solutions

- Network Products, Network Services: 4G and 5G development, Radio and Transport, Managed Services and Customer Support
- Cloud & IT Products & Services: Software, Systems Integration
- Media: Broadcast systems, TV/Media
- Available financials stated with pre-reorganization segmenting

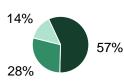




- Nokia Networks
- Nokia Technologies

- Nokia Networks: Network Infrastructure Business
- Nokia Technologies: Technology Development and IPR Activities

7TF中兴



- Network
- Handset Terminals
- Telecom. Software systems, services and other products
- · Networks: Wireless communications, wireline switch and access and optical and data communications
- · Handset terminals: Manufacture and sale of mobile phone handsets and data card products
- · Telecommunications software systems, services and other products: Telecommunications software systems and fee-based services

ZTE Corp. data is form 2014.





Key Takeaways from Infrastructure OEM segment.

Long-term trend

Ability to Create Shareholder value

- All peers have improved ROIC since 2012
- Majority of peers have continuously delivered ROICs above WACC, thereby increasing shareholder value

Revenue

 Aside from Huawei and ZTE, organic growth among peers has been low over the period

Margin Performance

- All peers have improved profitability since 2012 but trend in last years is flat
- Nokia and Huawei have best in class margins
- Ericsson's and Nokia's LTM trends are flat but performance in last quarters implies 2016 fullyear margins are assumed to be lower than 2015 actuals

Capital Efficiency

- Huawei has continuously higher CTR than peers (2x) as a result of increased focus on services, hence higher fixed asset turnover
- Other peers are on par and have delivered stable capital turnover ratios over the period

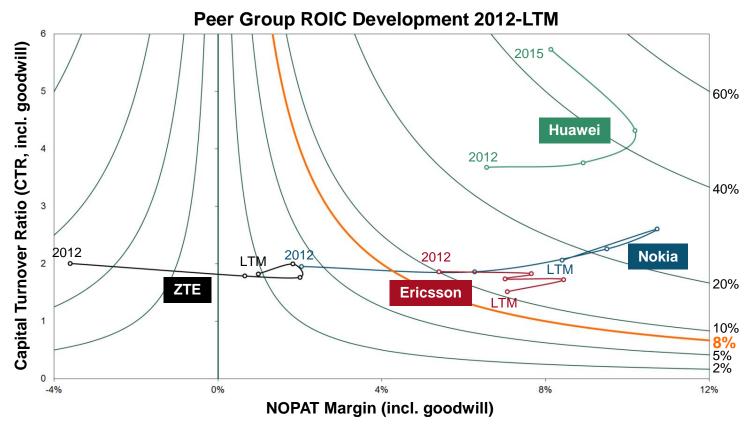
Short-term trend

- Nokia, Ericsson and ZTE have deteriorating ROICs LTM
- · Huawei keeps its position as best in class
- Huawei and ZTE are the only peers with increasing revenues (Nokia's increasing revenues is driven from Alcatel acquisition)
- Most recent acquisitions driven by ambition to improve selected competence areas
- Declining profitability for all peers compared to historical levels
- Ericsson's margin deterioration is accelerating with a significant drop in Q3
- Nokia's NOPAT margin is hurt by acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent
- Nokia, Ericsson and ZTE have increased inventory levels LTM, leading to lower CTR
- Days of sales receivables and payables are stable, but all peers still pay suppliers quicker than collecting cash from customers





Huawei has higher CTR than peers as a result of increased focus on services – all peers has improved NOPAT since 2012.



ROIC = Return on Invested Capital (actual return that the company has generated after tax)

WACC = Weighted Average Cost of Capital (the required return that the company must generate in order create value, i.e. a ROIC>WACC creates shareholder value)

Notes: NOPAT is normalized to remove one-time or unusual influences.

Huawei does not publish quarterly reports. ZTE only publish half year reports.

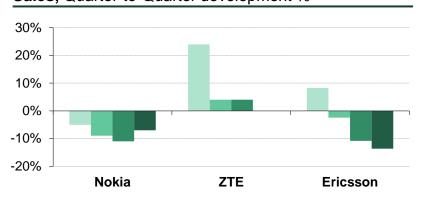
Nokia 2012 excludes device business, Nokia LTM includes Alcatel-Lucent on a consolidated basis.



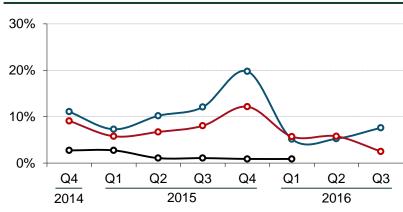


Nokia's margin is recovering while Ericsson's deteriorating shows a rapid acceleration in Q3 – ZTE is gaining market share during 2016.

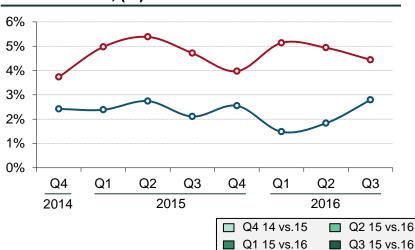
Sales, Quarter-to-Quarter development %



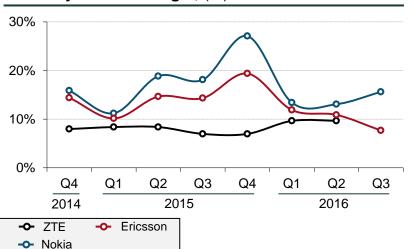
Quarterly NOPAT Margin, (%)



CAPEX / Sales, (%)



Quarterly EBITDA Margin, (%)



Notes: NOPAT is normalized to remove one-time or unusual influences.

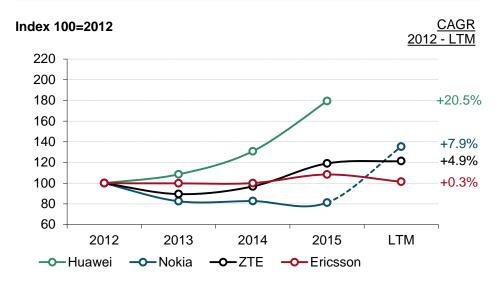
Huawei does not publish quarterly reports. ZTE only publish half year reports. Source: Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.





Aside from Huawei and ZTE, organic growth among peers is low, with sales either flat or increasing due to acquisitions.

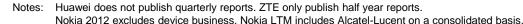
Indexed Revenue Development 2012 – Last Twelve Months



- Huawei's CAGR of 20.5% from 2012 leads the group. Huawei's carrier and consumer businesses have driven the upward trend (a 21.4% and 72.9% increase, respectively, from 2014 to 2015)
- Nokia's increased revenue over the past year is driven by the Alcatel acquisition, which closed in January

M&A Activity 2015 – 2016

Oct-2016	Nokia acquires Eta Devices, start-up specializing in power efficiency solutions for base stations
Aug-2016	Nokia acquisition of Gainspeed, pioneer of DAA cable, to close Q3'16
Apr-2016	Ericsson acquires Ericpol, a software development company specialized in telecommunications and IT
Jan-2016	Nokia secures 17 BUSD takeover of Alcatel- Lucent via tender offer
Jan-2016	Nokia acquires French internet and software company Withings SAS for 192 MUSD
Dec-2015	Nokia completes the sale of its HERE business to Audi, BMW and Daimler for 2.8 BEUR
Oct-2015	Ericsson completed the acquisition of Envivio by means of a tender offer for approx. 125 MUSD
Jul-2015	Huawei acquired its SDN software technology from Amartus

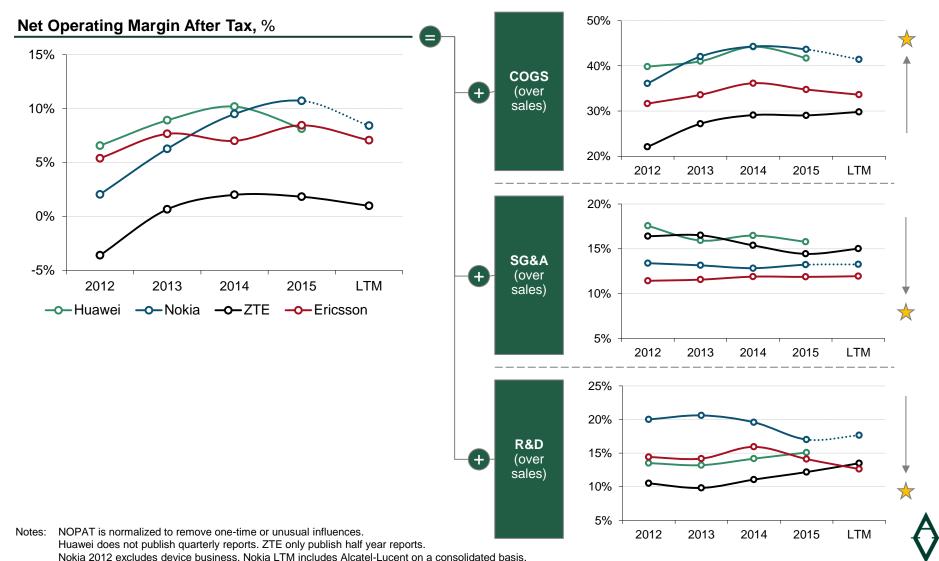




APPLIED VALUE



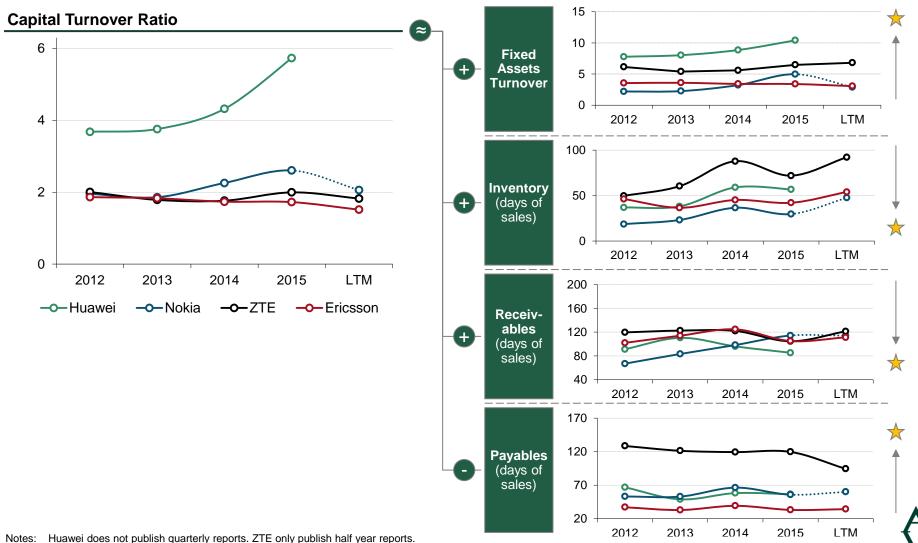
Declining profitability for all peers - Ericsson's poor performance during 2016 is offset by strong Q4 2015 resulting in flat trend.



APPLIED VALUE



Increasing inventory levels and overall poor cash management – all peers pay suppliers quicker than collecting cash from customers.



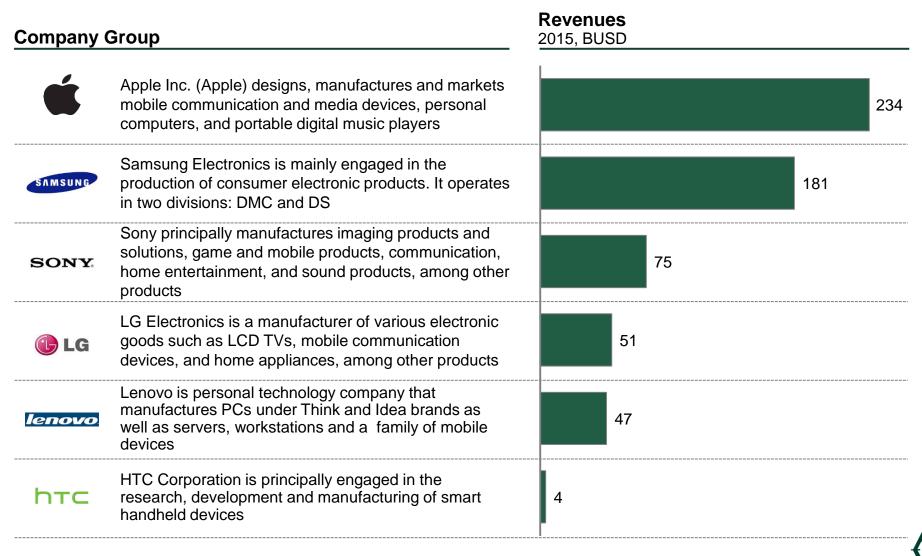
Nokia 2012 excludes device business. Nokia LTM includes Alcatel-Lucent on a consolidated basis.

Summary and Key Data Financial Trends and Performance 2) **Operators Infrastructure OEMs Device OEMs About Applied Value**





We performed a financial benchmarking analysis comparing Apple, Samsung Electronics, Sony, LG Electronics, Lenovo and HTC.

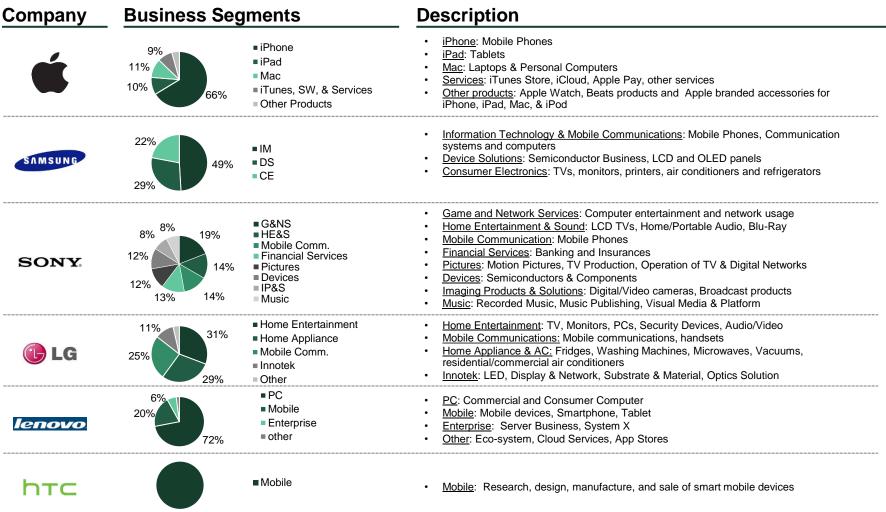


Notes: Samsung, Apple, Sony, Lenovo and LG's financials include revenue of other business in addition to mobile devices. Source: Thomson Reuters, Annual Reports.

APPLIED VALUE



All peers except HTC are diversified technology companies.







Key Takeaways from Device OEM segment.

Long-term trend

Ability to Create Shareholder value

- Samsung and Apple are performing a ROIC above WACC but other peers are struggling around or below WACC
- Apple's significant cash assets has a positive impact on CTR and ROIC which separates them from peers

Revenue

- Apple and Lenovo have the highest revenue growth among Device OEMs since 2012
- HTCs revenues have declined more than 70% since 2012

Margin Performance

- All peers except HTC deliver stable margins
- Apple (17%) and Samsung (10%) outperform other peers (0-3%) in terms of NOPAT margin
- Apple currently catch >80% of the total smartphone profits

Capital Efficiency

 Overall stable invested CTR among peers except for Apple that has seen performance improvement since 2014

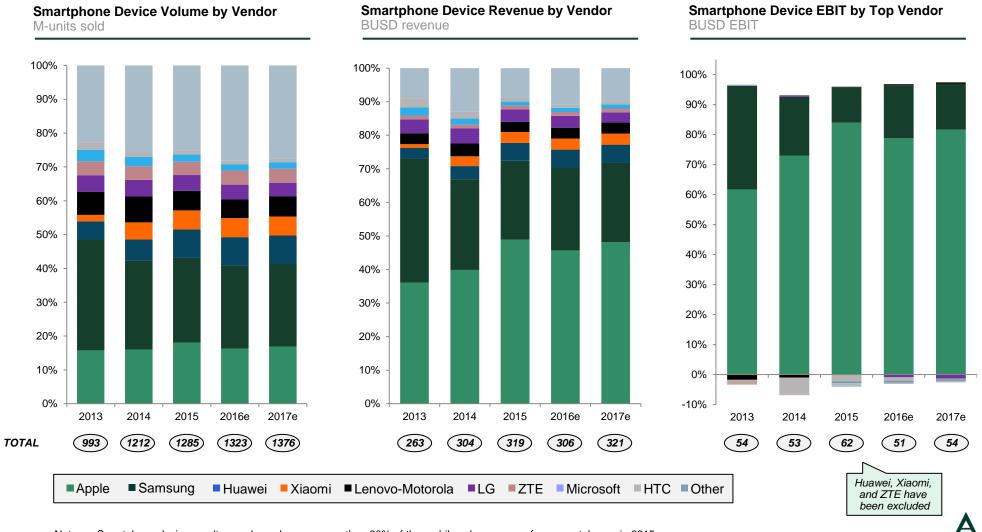
Short-term trend

- Major change in **ROIC** performance for; Lenovo due to Motorola **acquisition**; HTC due to falling **margins**; for Apple because of improved **capital efficiency**
- Declining revenue during 2016 for all peer companies
- Smartphone revenues are expected to continue to decline in 2016 due to increased saturation in mature mobile device markets.
- NOPAT margins have been stable for all peers except for HTC during last eight quarters
- HTC's NOPAT margin fell to -22% over the past year, mainly due to unsuccessful launches of new devices
- Last two years capital turnover has been either flat or increasing for peer companies
- Apple's significant cash resources give them outstanding invested CTR (12x) compared to peers (4x)





Smartphone revenues and profits are expected to decline in 2016 due to increasing penetration maturity in major markets.



Notes: Smartphone device results are shown here as more than 80% of the mobile volumes come from smartphones in 2015.

"Others" category include Sony, TCL, Coolpad but due to incomplete data, they have not been broken out. Totals for EBIT are not industry totals but totals of companies listed. Several companies (Huawei, Xiaomi, ZTE) did not report smartphone business EBIT results.

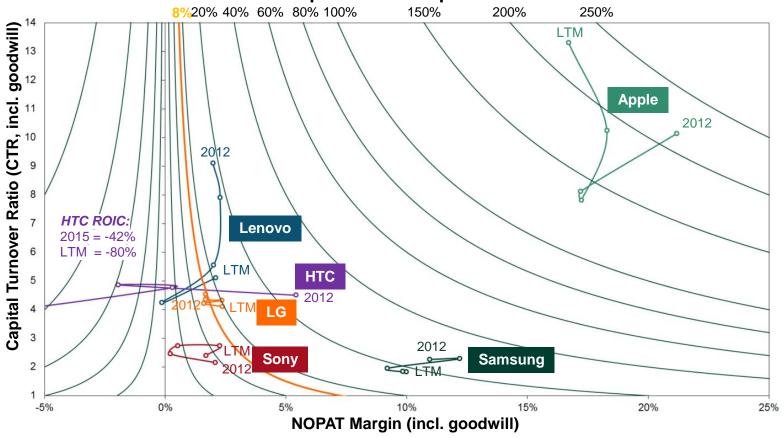
Source: UBS Evidence Lab, Company data.





Apple continues to outperform peers in terms of ROIC while its peers struggle with low or even negative ROIC.

Peer Group ROIC Development 2012-LTM



ROIC = Return on Invested Capital (actual return that the company has generated after tax)

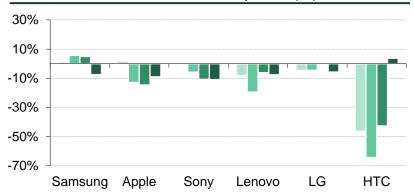
WACC = Weighted Average Cost of Capital (the required return that the company must generate in order create value, i.e. a ROIC>WACC creates shareholder value)



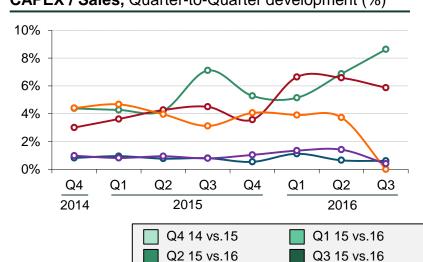


All peers except HTC manage to deliver stable margins despite declining sales.

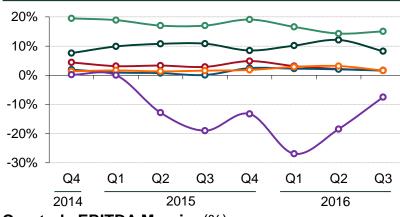
Sales, Quarter-to-Quarter development (%)



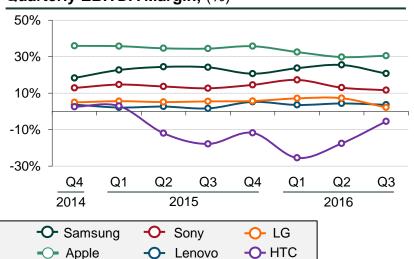
CAPEX / Sales, Quarter-to-Quarter development (%)

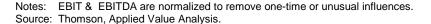


Quarterly NOPAT Margin, (%)



Quarterly EBITDA Margin, (%)



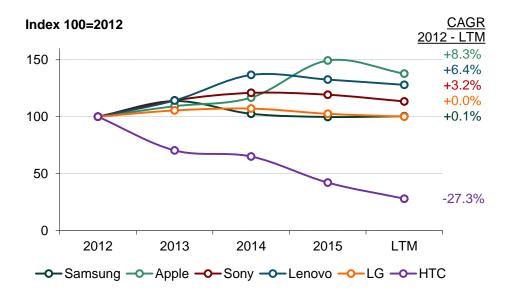






None of the peers have managed to significantly grow their revenues LTM – HTC's revenue has declined rapidly since 2012.

Indexed Revenue Development 2012 – LTM



M&A Activity 2012 – 2016

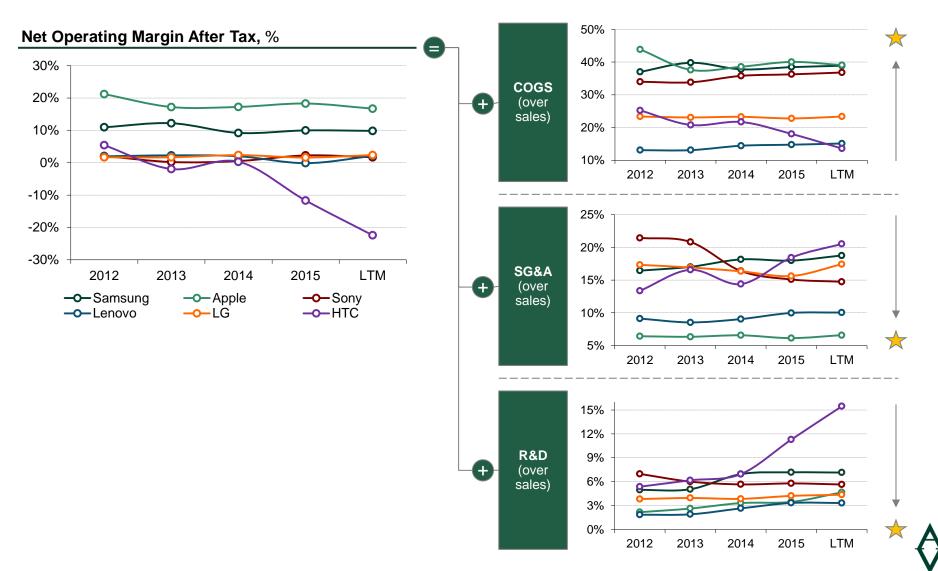
Oct-2016	Samsung acquired artificial intelligence company Viv		
Aug-2016	Sony acquires Ten Sports, an Indian television company, for 385 MUSD		
Aug-2016	Apple acquires machine learning company Turi for 200 MUSD		
Jan-2016 Sony acquires Altair Semiconductor, an elect company, for 212 MUSD			
Sep-2015	Apple acquires map visualization software Mapsense ~30 MUSD		
Feb-2015	Samsung buys LoopPay as Digital Wallet Platform for 250 MUSD		
Jan-2015	Apple acquires music analytics software Semetric for 50 MUSD		
Oct-2014	Lenovo acquired IBM's x86 Server business for 2.1 BUSD		
Oct-2014 Lenovo acquires Motorola Mobility from C 2.9 BUSD			
May-2014	Apple acquires Beats Music and Beats Electronics for 3 BUSD		



APPLIED VALUE



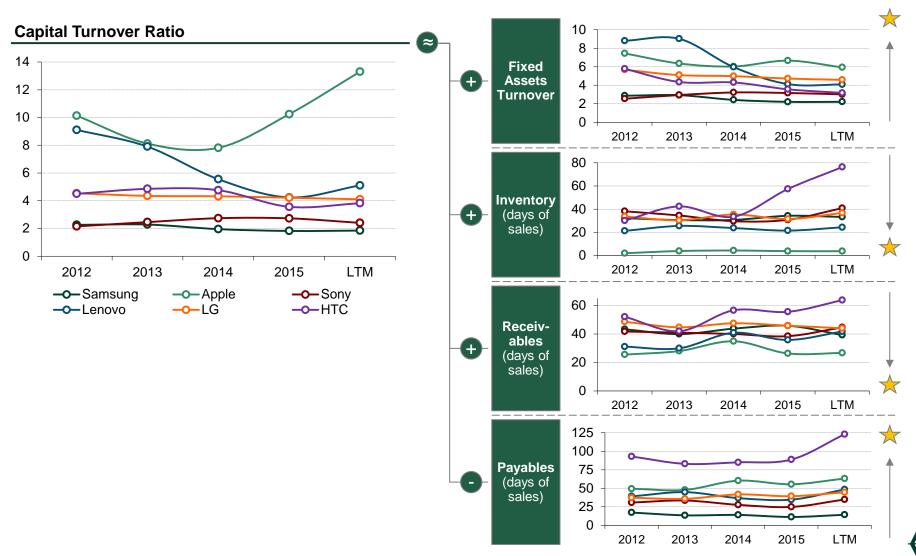
Samsung's and Apple's NOPAT margins are stable and consistently higher than other peers.



APPLIED VALUE



Apple has improved its CTR, but both Lenovo and HTC have had significant declines due to decreased FAT and increased inventory.



Notes: Lenovo acquired Motorola Mobility in 2014 which increased their invested capital and lowered their Fixed Asset Turnover ratio Source: Annual Reports, Applied Value analysis.

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		Operators	
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		Device OEMs	
3)		About Applied Value	





Applied Value is a boutique management consultancy advising clients on hands-on business improvement initiatives.

APPLIED VALUE GROUP

Who We Are

- Management consultancy founded in 1999 by:
 - Late Jan Stenbeck, former Chairman of the Board of Kinnevik
 - Bruce Grant, former Managing Director of Arthur D. Little North America
- Office in the U.S., Sweden, and China

The Applied Value Way

- Global perspective and resources, but with a personal and value oriented approach
- > ROI driven Focus on tangible results
- Practical over theoretical In order to create real value, real fast
- > The work is done when the implementation is complete, not when the recommendation is made

Our Business Philosophy – Lean Growth

	Lean Growth			
	FOCUS	SIMPLICITY	SPEED	
	Define strategic focus Excel in key capabilities Use partners to handle non-core activities	Reduce complexity Simplify and standardize processes, organization and supply chain	Measure and improve: Time to Market Time to Customer Time to Cash	
Go-to-Market	Segmentation/Positioning Product/Channel mix			
Gross Margin Improvement	Pricing Sourcing Operations			
OPEX Efficiency	S&M effectiveness G&A efficiency R&D effectiveness			
Capital Efficiency	Cash management Inventory management Fixed assets leverage			

Our Offerings – Hands-on Business Improvements



Our organization supports clients globally from 3 offices.

