### Deutsche Bank Research

### Rating Hold



Asia China

Consumer Retail / Wholesale Trade ReutersBI002508.SZ00

Bloomberg Exch 002508 CS SHZ

Exchange Ticker SHZ 002508

# 2Q18 review: Demand weakness is likely industry-wide, cut TP to RMB25

Event: Robam hosted an earnings call on 2018 Aug 23 after 2018 result release Conclusions: (1) 2018 earnings miss, (2) management further cut long-term revenue growth guidance from 20% to 10-15%, (3) Robam and Little Swan's deceleration likely hint significant deterioration in home appliances retail environment. We cut our earnings forecasts by 3-11% between FY18-20 and reiterate a cautious view on the sector.

### The print: slowest sales growth since at least 2010, operating profit missed DBe by 17%

Robam's 2Q18 revenue came in at RMB1,905mn, up 4% YoY. DB operating profit at RMB371mn, declined by 3% YoY. The disappointment was equally driven by (1) weak demand for rangehood and cooking hob (1H18 sales YoY decelerated to 6% vs. 12% in 2H17) and (2) gross margin pressure (down 1.7 ppt YoY), on top of a slight operating deleverage. Channel-wise, the weakness was likely driven by a sharp deceleration in exclusive stores (to 5-10% YoY in 1H18 vs. over 15% in 2H17).

### Robam's struggle may reflect an industry trend

- Robam and Little Swan's sharp declaration points to challenging retail environment: similar to Robam, Little Swan (a major washing machine brand and among the first home appliances companies to report 2018 results) also reported significant sales growth declaration in 2018. Both companies claim their reported revenue is a close reflection of enddemand (vs. air conditioner brands' wholesale revenue that tend to lag distributors' actual conditions). We thus believe the actual retail environment for home appliances in China could have deteriorated much more significantly in 2018 vs. market's general belief.
- Robam's guidance cut points to even weaker outlook: during the 2018 call, Robam management guided for a 10-15% sales growth YoY in the coming years. This marks another cut to long-term guidance (note Robam had previously cut its sales growth guidance to "over 20% YoY" from "30% YoY" in February 2018 during the 4Q17 earnings call). We expect Robam to face more difficulties in penetrating into lower tier cities, as pricing discipline likely deteriorated sharply after Vatti's distributor bankruptcy.

### Date 24 August 2018 Forecast Change

Price at 23 Aug 2018 (CNY)	22.98
Price target - 12mth (CNY)	25.00
52-week range (CNY)	54.40 - 22.98
Shenzhen Index	1,530

### Valuation & Risks

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Key changes			
TP	32.00 to 25.00	$\downarrow$	-21.9%
Sales (FYE)	8,080 to 7,714	$\downarrow$	-4.5%
Op prof margin (FYE)	21.5 to 21.8	ſ	1.3%
Net profit (FYE)	1,669.0 to 1,613.9	$\downarrow$	-3.3%
Source: Deutsche Bank			

Price/price relative



Performance (%)	1m	3m	12m
Absolute	-18.2	-36.3	-41.2
Shenzhen Index	-8.6	-20.3	-23.1
Source: Deutsche Bank			
Key indicators (FY1)			
ROE (%)			28.4
Net debt/equity (%)			-60.6
Book value/share (CNY)			6.42
Price/book (x)			3.6
Net interest cover (x)			-
Operating profit margin (%)			21.8
Source: Deutsche Bank			

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### Revisions, valuation and risks

We cut our 2018/19/20E forecasted earnings by 3%/7%/11%, respectively. This is mainly to model reduced long-term revenue growth guidance. Note that our cut for 2020 is heavier than that in 2018 as we forecast a milder growth trajectory driven by aforementioned difficulties to penetrate the lower tier cities.

Our forecasts are lower than consensus as we anticipate more pressure for Robam's distributors to branch into lower tier cities.

Figure 1: Earnings revisions

	2018E			2019E	33	2020E			
	New	Old	diff.	New	Old	diff.	New	Old	diff.
Revenue	7,714	8,080	-5%	8,479	9,226	-8%	9,300	10,868	-14%
Gross Profit	4,080	4,266	-4%	4,447	4,816	-8%	4,859	5,620	-14%
Op.Income	1,681	1,737	-3%	1,861	2,076	-10%	2,134	2,458	-13%
Recur. Net Income	1,624	1,667	-3%	1,798	1,940	-7%	2,038	2,281	-11%
Recur. EPS (RMB)	1.71	1.76	-3%	1.89	2.04	-7%	2.15	2.40	-11%
Gross Margin (%)	52.9%	52.8%	0.1%	52.4%	52.2%	0.2%	52.2%	51.7%	0.5%
Op. Margin (%)	21.8%	21.5%	0.3%	21.9%	22.5%	-0.6%	22.9%	22.6%	0.3%
Recur. Net Margin (%)	21.1%	20.6%	0.4%	21.2%	21.0%	0.2%	21.9%	21.0%	0.9%

Source: Deutsche Bank estimates, company data

	2018E		2019E			2020E			
	DBe	Consensus	diff.	DBe	Consensus	diff.	DBe	Consensus	diff.
Revenue	7,714	7,797	-1%	8,479	8,839	-4%	9,300	9,645	-4%
Gross Profit	4,080	4,094	0%	4,447	4,626	-4%	4,859	5,072	-4%
Op.Income	1,681	1,807	-7%	1,861	2,064	-10%	2,134	2,313	-8%
Net Income	1,614	1,635	-1%	1,798	1,888	-5%	2,038	2,110	-3%
EPS (RMB)	1.70	1.73	-2%	1.89	2.00	-5%	2.15	2.22	-3%
Gross Margin (%)	52.9%	53.7%	-0.8%	52.4%	53.8%	-1.4%	52.2%	54.1%	-1.8%
Op. Margin (%)	21.8%	23.2%	-1.4%	21.9%	23.4%	-1.4%	22.9%	24.0%	-1.0%
Net Margin (%)	20.9%	21.0%	0.0%	21.2%	21.4%	-0.2%	21.9%	21.9%	0.0%

Source: Deutsche Bank estimates, Bloomberg Finance LP consensus

We cut our DCF-based target price to RMB25, the 22% cut is driven by (1) earnings cut (contributed to 11% decrease in value) and (2) reduced revenue growth in our DCF model following Robam's another guidance cut (contributed to 11% decrease in value). Our revised target price implies 13x of 2019 recurring EPS, or 1 year mean minus two standard deviations.

Our primary valuation methodology is DCF. As most of Robam's business comes from China, we use a 9.5% China COE, provided by Deutsche Bank's economics team. We use a beta of 1 and a long-term growth rate of 1%, in line with our 1.0-2.0% sector assumption for the other consumer stocks that we cover.

Downside risks include 1) volatility in the property market; 2) increase in raw material prices; 3) new entrants and a price war would damage players' profitability. Company risks include failure to maintain its leading position and

inability to continuously launch new products. Upside risks: 1) less disruptions from industry distribution system; 2) faster expansion into lower tier cities.

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24 August 2018 Retail / Wholesale Trade Robam



Model updated: 24 August 2018	Fiscal year end 31-Dec	2015	2016	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E
Running the numbers	Financial Summary						
Asia	DB EPS (CNY)	1.15	1.28	1.54	1.71	1.89	2.15
China	Reported EPS (CNY)	1.15	1.28	1.54	1.70	1.89	2.15
Retail / Wholesale Trade	DPS (CNY) BVPS (CNY)	0.40 6.5	0.39 5.7	0.75 5.5	0.83 6.4	0.92 7.4	1.05 8.5
	Weighted average shares (m)	722	943	949	949	949	949
Robam	Average market cap (CNYm) Enterprise value (CNYm)	12,998 10,671	24,931 21,479	38,428 35,839	21,809 18,107	21,809 17,272	21,809 16,344
Reuters: 002508.SZ Bloomberg: 002508 CS	Valuation Metrics						
Hold	P/E (DB) (x) P/E (Reported) (x)	15.6 15.7	20.6 20.7	26.3 26.3	13.4 13.5	12.1 12.1	10.7 10.7
Price (23 Aug 18) CNY 22.98	P/BV (x) FCF Yield (%)	3.46 6.5	4.96 5.4	8.68 2.9	3.58 8.6	3.10 7.7	2.70 8.7
Target PriceCNY 25.00	Dividend Yield (%) EV/Sales (x)	2.2 2.3	1.5 3.7	1.9 5.1	3.6 2.3	4.0 2.0	4.6 1.8
52 Week range CNY 22.98 - 54.40	EV/EBITDA (x) EV/EBIT (x)	2.3 11.4 12.0	16.0 17.1	22.0 23.3	10.2 10.8	8.9 9.3	7.4 7.7
Market cap (m) CNYm 21,809		12.0		20.0	10.0	0.0	
USDm 3,174.9	Income Statement (CNYm)		F 70F	7		0.470	0.000
Company Profile	Sales revenue Gross profit	4,543 2,643	5,795 3,321	7,017 3,767	7,714 4,080	8,479 4,447	9,300 4,859
Hangzhou Robam Appliances is principally engaged in the research, development, production and distribution of kitchen	EBITDA	935	1,339	1,631	1,774	1,949	2,218
appliances.	Depreciation Amortisation	46 0	80 0	90 0	94 0	88 0	84 0
	EBIT	888	1,259	1,541	1,681	1,861	2,134
	Net interest income(expense) Associates/affiliates	66 0	79 0	92 0	96 0	100 0	105 0
	Exceptionals/extraordinaries	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other pre-tax income/(expense)	14	67	56	100	129	131
Price Performance	Profit before tax Income tax expense	969 141	1,404 197	1,690 231	1,877 263	2,090 293	2,370 332
60 -	Minorities	-3	0	-3	0	0	0
50	Other post-tax income/(expense)	0 830	0	0	0	0	0
40	Net profit		1,207	1,461	1,614	1,798	2,038
30	DB adjustments (including dilution) DB Net profit	2 833	2 1,208	2 1,463	10 1,624	0 1,798	0 2,038
20 10			.,	.,	.,	.,	_,
Jan '17 Jul '17 Jan '18 Jul '18	Cash Flow (CNYm)						
— Robam — Shenzhen Index (Rebased)	Cash flow from operations	1,124	1,545	1,256	2,056	1,858	2,079
	Net Capex	-278	-196	-146	-177	-170	-186
Margin Trends	Free cash flow Equity raised/(bought back)	846 61	1,350 14	1,110 0	1,878 0	1,688 0	1,893 0
26	Dividends paid	-162	-292	-365	-786	-877	-995
24	Net inc/(dec) in borrowings Other investing/financing cash flows	0 -27	0 50	0 -1,621	0 20	0 24	0 30
22	Net cash flow	718	1,121	-876	1,112	835	928
20	Change in working capital	234	244	-296	-42	-88	-87
18	Balance Sheet (CNYm)						
← EBITDA Margin ← EBIT Margin	Cash and other liquid assets	2,323	3,448	2,582	3,694	4,529	5,457
	Tangible fixed assets	2,323	3,448 949	2,582	3,094 962	4,529 939	920
Growth & Profitibility	Goodwill/intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
40 35	Associates/investments Other assets	0 1,735	1 2,017	4 4,345	4 4,645	4 5,001	4 5,312
30 32.5	Total assets	5,027	6,415	7,927	9,306	10,473	11,693
20 - 30	Interest bearing debt	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 - 27.5	Other liabilities Total liabilities	1,860 1,860	2,290 2,290	2,669 2,669	3,212 3,212	3,450 3,450	3,618 3,618
0 25	Shareholders' equity	3,170	4,129	5,261	6,097	7,026	8,078
15 16 17 18E 19E 20E	Minorities	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3
Sales growth (LHS) 🔶 ROE (RHS)	Total shareholders' equity Net debt	3,166 -2,323	4,125 -3,448	5,257 -2,582	6,094 -3,694	7,022 -4,529	8,075 -5,457
Solvency	Key Company Metrics						
0	Sales growth (%)	26.6	27.6	21.1	9.9	9.9	9.7
-25 + + + + +	DB EPS growth (%)	-5.2	11.2	20.3	11.0	10.7	13.4
-50 +	EBITDA Margin (%)	20.6	23.1	23.2	23.0	23.0	23.8
-75	EBIT Margin (%) Payout ratio (%)	19.6 35.2	21.7 30.2	22.0 48.7	21.8 48.8	21.9 48.8	22.9 48.8
-100	ROE (%)	29.4	33.1	31.1	28.4	27.4	27.0
15 16 17 18E 19E 20E	Capex/sales (%)	6.1	3.4	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0
Net debt/equity (LHS)    Net interest cover (RHS)	Capex/depreciation (x) Net debt/equity (%)	6.0 -73.4	2.5 -83.6	1.6 -49.1	1.9 -60.6	1.9 -64.5	2.2 -67.6
John Chou	Net interest cover (x)	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm

Source: Company data, Deutsche Bank estimates

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## Appendix 1

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Company	Ticker	Recent price*	Disclosure
Robam	002508.SZ	22.98 (CNY) 23 Aug 2018	NA
*D:			

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