

# **CHINA LOOK AHEAD**

Q1 2020

### Disclaimer

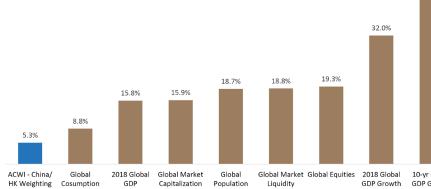
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## **A-Share Market Remains Underrepresented**

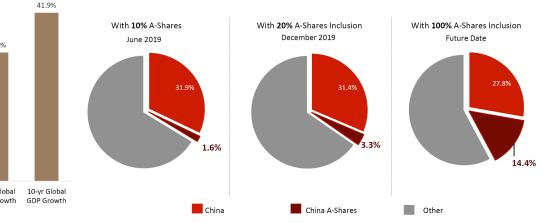
#### China is Under-Owned by Nearly Any Measure

China as a percentage of the world



#### China's Growing Role in Emerging Markets

MSCI Emerging Markets Index as of June 30, 2019

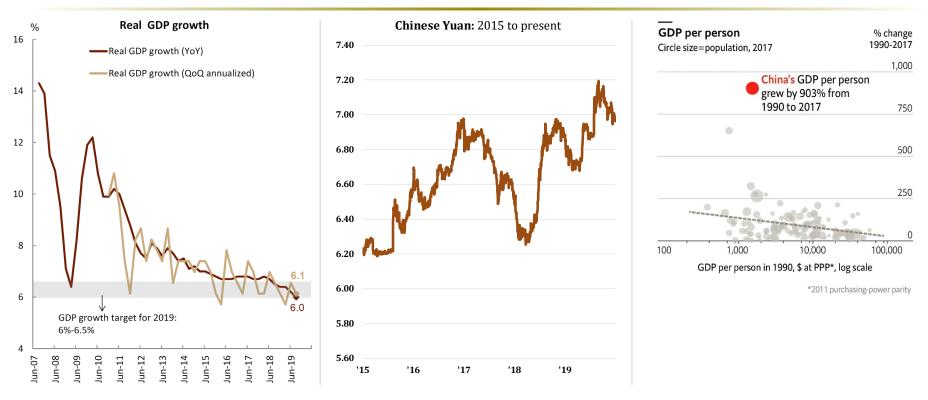


- With China being the second largest equity market in the world combined with under representation in major indexes, it is not hard to fathom additional capital inflows to China over the long-term
- There is still a significant push underway for index providers to fairly represent China, with the A-Share market making up the lion share of the growth

Data Source: Matthews Asia, *"The Case for Greater China Exposure in Your Portfolio"* (October 2019) Data is from sources deemed to be reliable. No representation or warranties either expressed or implied are made as to the accuracy of the information presented.



### **Macroeconomic Expectations**



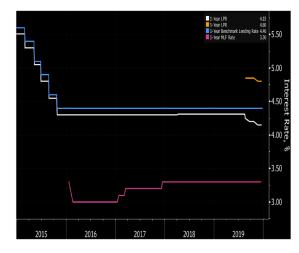
- In our view, a bottom looks to be forming in the Chinese economy.
- The Chinese economy continues to grow at a 6% rate, while the U.S. is struggling to maintain 2% growth

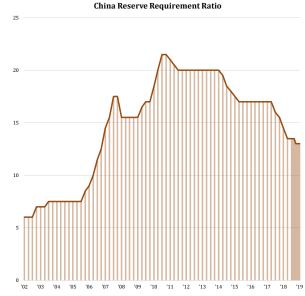
Data Sources: CICC, <u>"Q4 2019 Chartbook"</u> (October 2019); Bloomberg as of 12/31/2019; The Economist, <u>"Economic & Financial Indicators"</u> Data is from sources deemed to be reliable. No representation or warranties either expressed or implied are made as to the accuracy of the information presented.

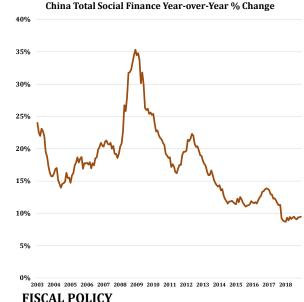


### **Macroeconomic Expectations**

#### PBOC's Longer-Term Rates







#### **MONETARY POLICY**

- Chinese officials kicked off the new year by signaling they would reduce the portion of deposits that commercial banks are required to set aside as reserves by 50 basis points
- The move will essentially release 800 billion yuan (\$115 billion) into the Chinese financial system
- The modest rate easing signals vigilance as the economy continues to transition.
- The lowering of credit costs is aimed at avoiding any new borrowing binges, particularly in real estate.

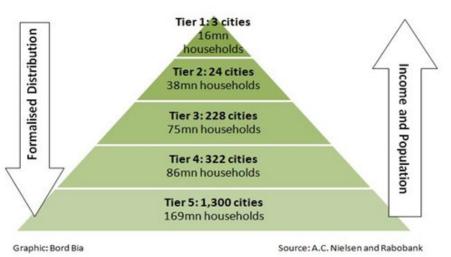
- The Chinese government said it would improve the effectiveness of fiscal policy in 2020, signaling a fine-tuning of support measures as the world's second largest economy slows.
- As the phase one trade deal with the U.S. is finalized, Chinese policymakers are focusing on stability rather than artificially boosting the economy
- Officials remain wary of boosting monetary stimulus, and are hinting that greater impact from fiscal efforts than was achieved by 2019's two trillion yuan (\$284 billion) round of tax cuts is desired.

Data Source: Bloomberg as of 12/31/2019



### Hukou System Reforms

China is relaxing hukou restrictions in small and medium-sized cities to solve migrant workers' residency challenges, boost urbanization, and spur domestic consumption. Here we breakdown the new policy and what it means for China's economy and labor market.



#### 1. What is Hukou?

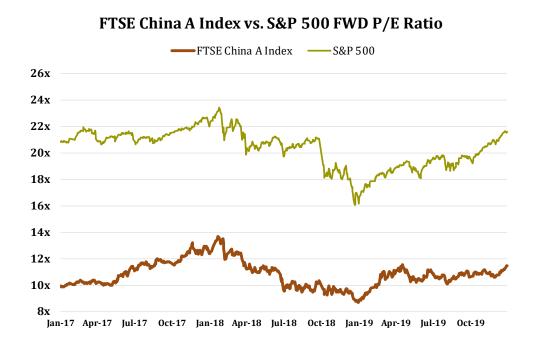
- Hukou is a household registration system in China similar to an internal passport used by the government to regulate population distribution within the country.
- By reducing restrictions on hukou, the reform plan aims to increase urbanization rates by at least 1% by the end of 2020.

#### 2. Hukou Reform and Property Markets

- China's latest step to encourage 100 million rural citizens to move to cities may provide a timely boost to a slowing property market.
- Cities with an urban population of between 1 million to 3 million have been directed by the government to scrap the residency registration system this year, while cities with a population of 3 million to 5 million have been directed to substantially ease residency requirements.



### Valuation



- On a forward-basis, Chinese stocks remain undervalued compared to the United States, trading at around 11.5x versus 21.6x for the S&P 500
- China is also one of the most attractive countries when comparing price-to-earnings to estimated GDP growth, sporting a PEG ratio of 2.4x compared to 11.8x for the United States

Country PEG Ratios				
<b>C</b>		Current	Est. 2020	P/E to GDP
Country China	ETF ASHR	P/E 14.42	GDP Growth	Growth 2.44
Russia	RSX	6.68	1.60	4.18
Malaysia	EWM	18.41	4.30	4.18
India	INP	29.63	5.60	5.29
South Korea	EWY	17.06	2.20	7.76
Singapore	EWS	12.16	1.50	8.10
Australia	EWA	20.31	2.40	8.46
Brazil	EWZ	17.91	2.10	8.53
Spain	EWP	15.63	1.70	9.20
Taiwan	EWT	19.66	2.10	9.36
Canada	EWC	17.27	1.60	10.79
United States	SPY	21.25	1.80	11.80
South Africa	EZA	14.55	1.10	13.23
Mexico	EWW	17.54	1.20	14.62
Sweden	EWD	18.96	1.20	15.80
France	EWQ	21.35	1.20	17.79
UK	EWU	18.23	1.00	18.23
Switzerland	EWL	24.66	1.20	20.55
Italy	EWI	14.23	0.50	28.46
Germany	EWG	24.45	0.70	34.93
Japan	EWJ	19.05	0.30	63.49
Hong Kong	EWH	10.87	0.10	108.69
Average		17.92	1.88	19.36
Median		18.07	1.55	11.30



Data Sources: Bloomberg as of 12/31/2019, Bespoke Investment Research

### What's Ahead: Phase One Trade Deal

The United States and China have agreed on the terms of a "phase one" trade deal that reduces some U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods while boosting Chinese purchases of American farm, energy, and manufactured goods.

#### TARIFFS

- US will half its 15% tariffs on \$120B in Chinese goods to 7.5%
- 25% Tariffs on \$25B of goods will remain at the current 25% rate
- China has lowered some retalitory tariffs and may lower more (for example tariffs on imported cars, etc.)
- China has established an exclusion process for its tariffs
- China has not committed to specific tariff reductions in the deal



#### IP & FORCED TECH TRANSFER

- China has agreed to end the practice of forcing or pressuring foreign companies to transfer their technology to Chinese companies as a condition for obtaining market access, administrative approvals, or receiving advantages from the government.
- China also commited to provide transparency, fairness, and due process in administrative proceedings and to have technology transfer and licensing take place on market terms.



#### COMMITTED PURCHASES

- China has agreed to increase its total purchases of US goods and services by \$200B over the next two years
- Included in the above is a specific commitment of between \$40 and \$50B in agricultural purchases



#### ENFORCEMENT

- The agreement will include a dispute-resolution mechanism that will serve as the enforcement arm.
- Complaints of one party will be brought to a US -China working group and if officials can't resolve their dispute, a decision will be made at the ministerial level of what action to take.



## What's Ahead: Belt & Road Next Steps

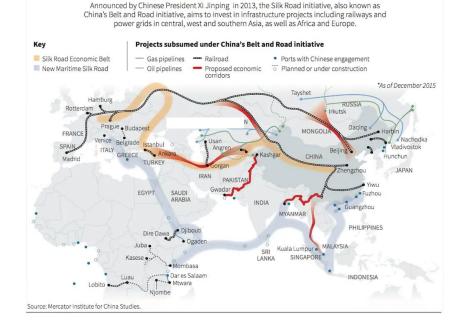
China has been making steady progress along the BRI and will continue to do so in 2020. At present, much of the infrastructure work along the BRI has been undertaken by Chinese state-owned entities, but the percentage of foreign participation is growing. China's new Foreign Investment Law, which kicked in January 1, also opens up the Belt and Road to foreign investors.

#### **Belt & Road Progress & Initiatives**

- China has so far signed 171 cooperation documents on the Belt & Road Initiative with more than 150 countries
- China-Europe freight trains have made more than 13,000 trips. The trains connect Chinese cities with 49 cities in 15 countries
- Aviation connectivity improved in countries participating in the Belt & Road Initiative. The current 387 air routes connect 33 participating countries
- China's accumulative trade volume with Belt & Road countries has surpassed \$7 trillion. It has built 82 overseas economic cooperation zones in Belt & Road countries, with investment exceeding \$30 billion

#### Focus Countries for Belt & Road Initiative in 2020

Cambodia Egypt Ethiopia Greece Indonesia Laos Oman South Korea Thailand United Arab Emirates



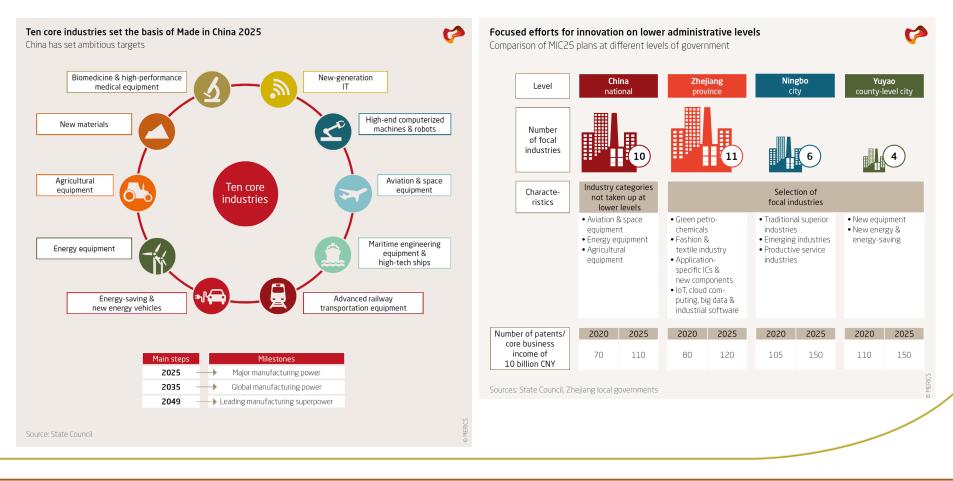
**Reviving the Silk Road** 



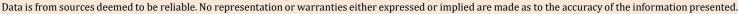
#### Data Source: <u>Xinhuanet</u>

### What's Ahead: China 2025 Initiatives

Five years ago, China launched the ambitious China 2025 plan to become a leading global technological superpower by 2049. The strategy defines ten core industries, such as robotics, power equipment and next-generation IT, in which China wants to achieve major breakthroughs and create globally competitive companies.



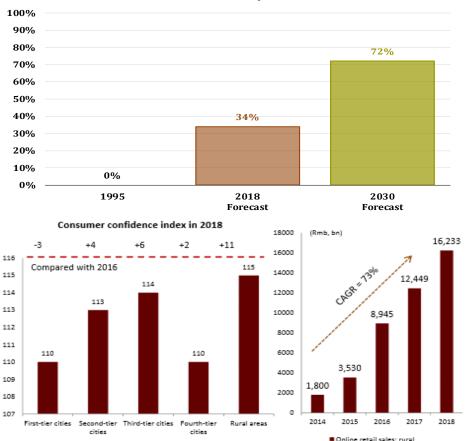
Data Source: The Mercator Institute for China Studies, <u>"Evolving Made in China 2025"</u> (February 2019)





## What's Ahead: Consumption Conversion

China's economy continues its historic shift to a more consumption- and service-driven model that should help sustain the country's growth, albeit at a slower rate, over the next decade and beyond. Two trends offer significant business opportunities for both domestic and foreign players:



#### **Growth of the Chinese Middle Class** Percent of Total Population

### 1. Chinese consumers demand more and better choices in goods and services.

- As incomes rise consumers want more choice, and, despite discussion about consumption downgrade, there is evidence of a broad trend of trading up.
- McKinsey's 2019 Global Consumer Sentiment Survey showed that 26% of Chinese respondents were trading up overall, compared with 17% in ten other top economies.

### 2. China's rapidly expanding consumption offers significant opportunities globally.

- China's rapidly expanding consumer market confident, becoming richer, and increasingly sophisticated offers a strong link between China and the world.
- By 2030, 58% of Chinese households are likely to be in the "mass affluent" category or above.
- The spending profile of urban Chinese consumers is converging with that of their counterparts in cities around the world.
- Chinese urban consumers are devoting a greater share of their income to discretionary spending.

Data Sources: <u>CICC;</u> J.P. Morgan Asset Management, <u>"Guide to the Markets | Q4 2019"</u> (December 2019) Data is from sources deemed to be reliable. No representation or warranties either expressed or implied are made as to the accuracy of the information presented.



## What's Ahead: Improving Private Enterprise

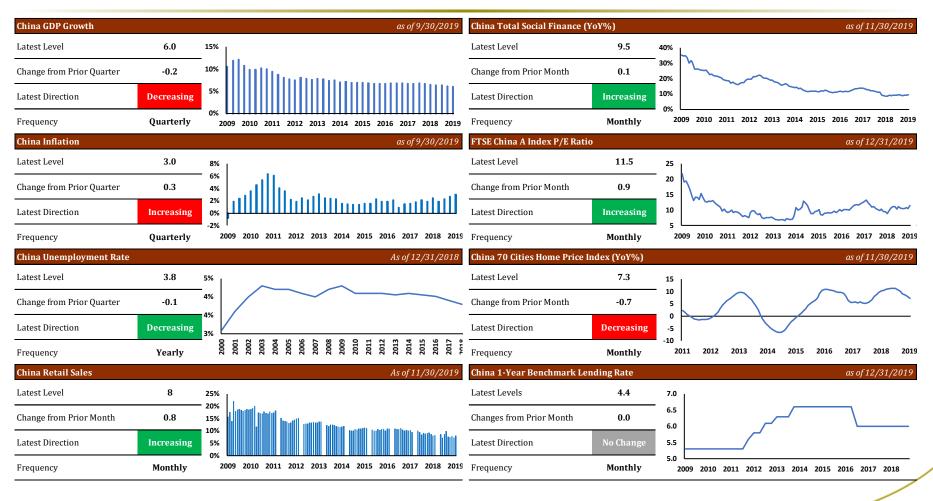
China recently unveiled its latest slate of measures designed to bolster private-sector businesses as policy makers double down on efforts to support what is by far the country's largest source of jobs. Some of the key measures outlined by the State Council are:

- 1. Giving private-sector investors access to the electricity, telecommunications, railway, oil, natural gas sectors, including allowing them to become shareholders in telecom carriers and major stakeholders of power generation and distribution businesses
- 2. Allowing private companies to enter the exploration, storage and transportation of oil and gas
- 3. Supporting qualified private firms to import and export oil
- **4. Improving banking services for private firms**, including adopting a higher tolerance for the ratio of non-performing loans to small firms
- **5. Supporting direct financing by private firms**, including encouraging them to be listed on China's NASDAQ-style technology board in Shanghai, supporting bond sales and debt-to-equity swaps
- 6. Encouraging private firms to take part in the restructuring of state-owned enterprises and the construction of mega-city clusters
- 7. Better promote the achievements and contributions of private-sector businesses

Phillips & Company

Data Sources: Bloomberg as of 12/31/2019, Phillips & Co.

### China Economic Dashboard



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