## Equity Research

## Uptrading \& Strong Pricing Continues to Drive Cig Category

- Cig \$ Sales Show Continued Strength Driven by Strong Pricing - All channel cig $\$$ sales increased $\mathbf{+ 3 . 0 \%}$ during the recent 4 -wk period ending $12 / 26 / 15(+3.1 \%$ for $12-\mathrm{wks} ;+2.5 \%$ for $52-\mathrm{wks})$, on very strong $+3.5 \%$ pricing and sequential improvements in eq. unit volume of -0.5\% (-0.7\% for 12-wks). As discussed in our "Tobacco Talk" surveys, the stronger tobacco consumer continues to up-trade to premium brands - a plus for the category. We expect strong manufacturer pricing and profit growth to continue in 2016.
- RAI Cig \$ Sales Remain Strong, Up +4.0\%, Driven By Robust Newport \$ Sales Growth - RAI cig $\$$ sales increased $+4.0 \%$ this period outpacing the industry's $+3.0 \%$ growth, driven by strong $+3.4 \%$ pricing and improved $+0.6 \%$ volume trends ( $+0.1 \%$ for 12 -wks; flat for $52-w k s$ ). Newport was the big contributor, with \$ sales up an impressive $+5.6 \%$, trending above its $52-\mathrm{wk}$ average ( $5.2 \%$ ) and showcasing Reynold's strong execution 6-months post the Lorillard acquisition. Camel $\$$ sales were up $2.9 \%$ on strong $+3.0 \%$ net pricing and unit volume of $-0.10 \%$, a sequential improvement vs $-1.2 \%$ for 12 -wks.
- MO Cig \$ Sales Decelerate, Up +2.6\% vs +2.9\% for 12-wks - No Change to Marlboro Share - MO cig \$ sales were driven primarily by pricing (+3.3\%), offset by soft volume growth (-0.7\%). Marlboro \$ sales (+2.0\%) reflected strong pricing ( $+3.6 \%$ ), offset by $-1.5 \%$ unit declines. Marlboro lost 45 bps of retail share, bringing its unit share to $46.9 \%$, roughly unchanged vs the November period.
- IMT \$ Sales Decline $\mathbf{- 1 . 8 \%}$ on Pressured Volumes - IMT continued to show weak unit volume growth of $-3.3 \%$ (vs $-3.9 \%$ for $12-\mathrm{wks}$ ) as volume for three of its top cig brands (Maverick, Kool and Salem) declined 3.0\% on avg. IMT \$ share declined $35 \mathrm{bps} \mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{Y}$ to $7.4 \%$ with Winston holding its $\$$ share relatively flat at $2.0 \%$ on higher promo activity ( $-2.3 \%$ pricing in Dec vs $-1.7 \% 12 k-w k s$ ).
- Smokeless Tobacco $\boldsymbol{\$}$ Sales Continue to Improve led by Grizzly (RAI) and Copenhagen (MO) - Smokeless tobacco $\$$ sales grew $+7.2 \%$ during the recent period vs $+6.5 \%$ for 12 -wks. RAI's Grizzly and MO's Copenhagen led the pack with Grizzly $\$$ sales up $+11.0 \%$ (vs $+10.7 \%$ for $12-w k s$ ) and Copenhagen up $+9.5 \%$ (vs $+8.8 \%$ for 12 -wks).
- E-Cig \$ Sales Remain Weak, But Show Sequential Improvement Despite Persistently Soft Pricing - All channel (mass channel + c-stores) ecig $\$$ sales were down $\mathbf{- 1 4 . 7 \%}$ in the recent period ( $-17.8 \%$ for 12 -wks). Unit volume trends improved $-1.1 \%$ ( $-4.9 \%$ for $12-w k s$ ), but pricing remained soft $(-13.7 \%)$. Though e-cig $\mathrm{y} / \mathrm{y}$ pricing has been in persistent decline, we believe it is at least partially due to difficulty in capturing SKUs of the evolving vapor category and proliferation of vapors/tanks/mods (VTM) and refills which tend to have lower retail prices.
- E-Cigs - RAI Still Market Leader in \$ Share - RAI reinforced its position as the share leader in all channel e-cigs with $37.9 \%$ \$ share, reflecting a
strengthening trend, sequentially and Y/Y. Fontem U.S. (blu eCigs), a subsidiary of Imperial at $21.1 \%$, Logic at $14.6 \%$, and NJoy $3.7 \%$. MO's $7.9 \%$ \$ share was impressive given that it lapped a tough year ago comp (13.0\%) and reflected strong consumer uptake of its new MarkTen XL ( $+3.7 \%$ share in Dec) and Green Smoke ( $+0.3 \%$ ). While Nielsen's data is useful directionally, we believe the e-cig unit and pricing data is difficult to rely on given Nielsen is still not reporting "equivalent" units in this category.

Please see page 11 for rating definitions, important disclosures and required analyst certifications
All estimates/forecasts are as of 01/05/16 unless otherwise stated.
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Exhibit 1. Cigarette All Channel Scanner Data Summary (52-wk Category Retail \$ Sales \$61.3B)

| Wells Fargo Securities - All Channel Scanner Data Summary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | EQUnit Sales $\Delta \mathrm{y}$ ly |  |  | Avg. EQPrice $\Delta$ yly |  |  | Dollar Sales $\Delta \mathrm{y} / \mathrm{y}$ |  |  | Dollar Share |  |  | Unit Share |  |  |
| Number of Weeks in Period: Period Ending: | 4-Week 12/26/15 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 12-Neek } \\ & \text { 12/26/15 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 52-Neek } \\ & \text { 12/26/15 } \end{aligned}$ | 4Week 12/26/15 | 12-Week 12/26/15 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 52-Week } \\ & \text { 12/26/15 } \end{aligned}$ | 4-Week 12/26/15 | 12-Week 12/26/15 | 52-Week <br> 12/26/15 | 4-Week 12/26/15 | 12-Week 12/26/15 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 52-Meek } \\ & \text { 12/26/15 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 4-Week } \\ & \text { 12/26/15 } \end{aligned}$ | 12-Week 12/26/15 | 52-Week <br> 12/26/15 |
| Cigarette Category | -0.5\% | -0.7\% | -0.7\% | 3.5\% | 3.8\% | 3.2\% | 3.0\% | 3.1\% | 25\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% |
| Reynolds American | 0.6\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 3.8\% | 3.5\% | 4.0\% | 3.9\% | 3.4\% | 33.3\% | 33.3\% | 33.2\% | 32.7\% | 32.6\% | 32.4\% |
| Nemport | 4.0\% | 4.3\% | 3.6\% | 1.5\% | 1.6\% | 1.5\% | 5.6\% | 6.0\% | 5.2\% | 12.3\% | 12.3\% | 12.1\% | 11.0\% | 11.0\% | 10.8\% |
| Camel | -0.1\% | -1.2\% | -0.1\% | 3.0\% | 3.6\% | 3.3\% | 2.9\% | 2.4\% | 3.2\% | 8.6\% | 8.6\% | 8.7\% | 8.4\% | 8.4\% | 8.5\% |
| Pall Mall | -4.5\% | -4.8\% | -4.5\% | 4.0\% | 4.3\% | 4.3\% | -0.7\% | -0.7\% | -0.4\% | 7.1\% | 7.0\% | 7.1\% | 8.5\% | 8.5\% | 8.6\% |
| Natural American Spint | 25.1\% | 24.1\% | 22.7\% | 2.2\% | 2.4\% | 2.4\% | 27.8\% | 27.1\% | 25.6\% | 2.5\% | 2.5\% | 2.3\% | 1.9\% | 1.9\% | 1.8\% |
| Atria Group | -0.7\% | -0.5\% | -0.7\% | 3.3\% | 3.4\% | 3.1\% | 2.6\% | 2.9\% | 2.3\% | 54.9\% | 54.9\% | 55.0\% | 53.1\% | 53.2\% | 53.3\% |
| Marlboro | -1.5\% | -1.5\% | -1.6\% | 3.6\% | 3.7\% | 3.4\% | 2.0\% | 2.2\% | 1.8\% | 46.9\% | 46.9\% | 47.2\% | 45.0\% | 45.1\% | 45.4\% |
| Basic | -17.1\% | -17.7\% | -21.2\% | 3.7\% | 4.6\% | 4.0\% | -14.0\% | -13.9\% | -18.1\% | 0.4\% | 0.4\% | 0.4\% | 0.3\% | 0.3\% | 0.4\% |
| Pariament | -4.3\% | -3.8\% | -4.4\% | 2.8\% | 2.7\% | 2.9\% | -1.6\% | -1.2\% | -1.6\% | 1.3\% | 1.3\% | 1.4\% | 0.9\% | 0.9\% | 0.9\% |
| Vrginia Slims | -2.0\% | -2.4\% | -4.4\% | 3.2\% | 3.6\% | 3.4\% | 1.2\% | 1.1\% | -1.2\% | 1.4\% | 1.4\% | 1.4\% | 1.2\% | 1.2\% | 1.2\% |
| Imperial Tobacco | -3.3\% | -3.9\% | -3.9\% | 1.6\% | 2.3\% | 1.7\% | -1.8\% | -1.7\% | -2.3\% | 7.4\% | 7.5\% | 7.6\% | 7.8\% | 7.8\% | 7.9\% |
| Winston | 1.9\% | 1.4\% | -2.1\% | -2.3\% | -1.7\% | -0.6\% | -0.4\% | -0.4\% | -2.8\% | 2.1\% | 2.1\% | 2.1\% | 2.3\% | 2.3\% | 2.2\% |
| Maverick | -2.3\% | -2.9\% | -3.3\% | 4.9\% | 5.0\% | 3.9\% | 2.5\% | 1.9\% | 0.5\% | 1.6\% | 1.6\% | 1.6\% | 1.7\% | 1.7\% | 1.7\% |
| Kool | -3.0\% | -3.3\% | -3.8\% | -0.7\% | 1.7\% | 1.5\% | -3.7\% | -1.7\% | -2.4\% | 1.4\% | 1.4\% | 1.5\% | 1.4\% | 1.4\% | 1.5\% |
| Salem | -4.1\% | -4.9\% | -7.3\% | 3.5\% | 3.7\% | 3.4\% | -0.7\% | -1.4\% | -4.1\% | 1.1\% | 1.1\% | 1.1\% | 1.0\% | 1.0\% | 1.0\% |
| Private Label | 7.9\% | 5.1\% | -2.3\% | 5.0\% | 6.1\% | 4.4\% | 13.4\% | 11.4\% | 2.0\% | 0.8\% | 0.8\% | 0.8\% | 1.2\% | 1.2\% | 1.1\% |

Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

## Exhibit 2. All Channel Cigarette Category Pricing, Volume and Elasticity Trends



Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

Exhibit 3. All Channel Cigarette Pricing and Volume Trends by Company



Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC
Exhibit 4. Smokeless Tobacco C-store Scanner Data Summary (52-wk Category Retail \$ Sales \$5.0B)


Source: Nielsen C-Track Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC
Exhibit 5. Smokeless Tobacco All Channel Scanner Data Summary (52-wk Category Retail \$ Sales \$5.4B)


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

Exhibit 6. All Channel Smokeless Tobacco-Pricing \& Volume Trends by Category \& Company



Source for all pricing/volume charts: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC




Source for all pricing/volume charts: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

Exhibit 7. Year-over-Year Volume Growth Rates from 1 Q11 through 3 Q15


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database, company reports

## Back-Testing - Nielsen's C-Store Database Trends A Decent Indicator of Cigarette Companies'

 Volume TrendsWe back-tested Nielsen's C-Store scanner data to gain a better understanding of Nielsen's strength as a leading indicator of cigarette companies' volume performance. We are pleased that this data is highly correlated, when cigarette companies' quarterly volumes were on a one quarter lag. Therefore, we feel that Nielsen's C-store data can be used to provide a general sense (especially directionally) of how volumes for the cigarette companies should trend.

We downloaded company-level cigarette unit sales for MO and RAI from Nielsen's C-store database (starting with 2 Q10) and modified the numbers proportionally so that the 4 -week period for Nielsen aligned with the companies' reporting quarters. We used year-over-year growth rates for unit sales for these companies to see how they compare with the companies' reported volume growth rates and to see how strong the correlation is between these data. We analyzed a total of 22 quarters' worth of year-over-year percentage change data. The correlation between MO's reported volume growth and Nielsen's all channel database was o.29. The correlation between RAI and Nielsen was 0.70 .

## Exhibit 8. Estimated 2015 \$ Sales of the U.S. Vapor Market

E-cig category dollar sales were $\$ 58 \mathrm{MM}$ this period implying about $\mathbf{\$ 8 5 0 M M}$ annual sales in Nielsentracked channels. This combined with vapor sales in non-Nielsen tracked channels (such as vape shops) plus online sales suggest the vapor category in total was $\sim \$ 3.3 \mathrm{~B}$ in 2015 in the U.S, slightly below our previous estimate of $\$ 3.5$ B.


Source: Nielsen C-Store Database, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC estimates
*Other Non-Tracked channels include tobacco-only outlets and other e-cig retail locations.

## Exhibit 9. Vapor Market Breakdown by Sub-Segment - Per Nielsen E-Cig Category Data

Sales Mix 4-Wk Ending 12/26/15 (\$ Sales \$57.7M)


Sales Mix 52-Wk Ending 12/26/15 (\$ Sales \$778.5M)


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC
Exhibit 10.E-Cig C-Store Scanner Data Summary Table (52-wk Category Retail \$ Sales \$667.4M)

| Wells Fargo Securities - C-Store Scanner Data Summary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of Weeks in Period: Period Ending: | Total Category \$ (in millions) |  |  | Total Category Units (in millions) |  |  | Avg. EQ Price |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 4-Week | 12-Week | 52-Week | 4-Week | 12-Week | 52-Week | 4-Week | 12-Week | 52-Week |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E-Cigarette Category | \$49.5 | \$144.3 | \$667.4 | 6.1 | 17.7 | 77.9 | \$8.1 $\quad \$ 8.2$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Number of Weeks in Period: Period Ending: | Dollar Share |  |  | Unit Share |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Avg. EQ Price $\triangle \mathrm{y} / \mathrm{y}$ | Dollar Sales $\Delta \mathrm{y} / \mathrm{y}$ |  |  | EQ Unit Sales $\Delta$ y/y |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 4-Week | 12-Week | 52-Week |  |  |  | 4-Week | 12-Week | 52-Week | 4-Week | 12-Week | 52-Week | 4-Week | 12-Week | 52-Week | 4-Week | ${ }^{12-W e e k}$ | 52-Week |
|  | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 | 12/26/15 |
| E-Cigarette Category | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | 100.0\% | -9.4\% | -10.8\% | -16.8\% | -15.0\% | -18.6\% | 1.9\% | -6.2\% | -8.8\% | 22.5\% |
| Reynolds American | 42.8\% | 43.0\% | 38.0\% | 54.0\% | 54.4\% | 4.1\% | -5.5\% | -8.9\% | -9.2\% | 26.7\% | 5.6\% | 129.4\% | 34.1\% | 15.9\% | 152.7\% |
| Fontem (blu) | 18.3\% | 19.1\% | 19.7\% | 13.0\% | 13.7\% | 14.9\% | 3.9\% | 0.7\% | 4.2\% | -20.2\% | -22.8\% | -34.2\% | -23.2\% | -23.3\% | -31.3\% |
| Logic | 16.3\% | 15.7\% | 15.9\% | 9.6\% | 9.4\% | 9.2\% | -11.9\% | -12.1\% | -2.6\% | -19.3\% | -21.8\% | -12.9\% | -8.4\% | -11.0\% | -10.6\% |
| Altria | 8.4\% | 6.9\% | 8.3\% | 9.6\% | 7.9\% | 9.6\% | -15.7\% | -12.1\% | -10.9\% | -49.8\% | -42.1\% | 26.6\% | -40.4\% | -34.1\% | 42.0\% |
| CB Distributors | 3.7\% | 3.9\% | 4.7\% | 3.4\% | 3.4\% | 4.2\% | -12.7\% | -10.4\% | -6.8\% | -44.7\% | -42.5\% | -16.1\% | -36.7\% | -35.9\% | -10.0\% |
| Noy, Inc. | 2.6\% | 3.1\% | 4.5\% | 2.5\% | 2.7\% | 3.6\% | -29.0\% | -22.4\% | -3.6\% | -58.2\% | -55.1\% | -51.5\% | -41.1\% | -42.2\% | -49.6\% |
| Ballantyne Brands, Inc. | 0.7\% | 0.8\% | 1.3\% | 0.6\% | 0.6\% | 1.2\% | 0.4\% | -6.7\% | -16.6\% | -61.0\% | -61.6\% | 4.1\% | -61.1\% | -58.8\% | 24.8\% |
| VMR Products | 1.2\% | 1.2\% | 1.4\% | 1.1\% | 1.2\% | 1.5\% | 0.0\% | 2.4\% | 1.5\% | -34.5\% | -36.3\% | -27.7\% | -34.6\% | -37.8\% | -28.8\% |
| Nicotek | 0.3\% | 0.4\% | 0.5\% | 0.3\% | 0.4\% | 0.6\% | 242.2\% | 101.4\% | 1.5\% | -70.6\% | -67.4\% | -64.2\% | -91.4\% | -83.8\% | -64.7\% |
| FIN Branding Group | 0.1\% | 0.1\% | 0.3\% | 0.1\% | 0.3\% | 0.4\% | -23.7\% | -48.5\% | -51.1\% | -81.3\% | -79.6\% | -76.7\% | -75.6\% | -60.4\% | .52.3\% |
| GS Vapors | 0.2\% | 0.3\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.1\% | -13.5\% | -17.6\% | -11.8\% | 1298.1\% | 1938.9\% | 2925.1\% | 1517.0\% | 2373.1\% | 3328.6\% |

Source: Nielsen C-Track Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

## Exhibit 11. E-Cig All Channel Scanner Data Summary (52-wk Category Retail \$ Sales \$778.5M)



Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

Exhibit 12. All Channel E-Cigarette Dollar Share Trends


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC


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Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

Exhibit 13. All Channel E-Cigarette Category Pricing, Volume and Unit Share Trends


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC


Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC


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Source: Nielsen Total US xAOC Including Convenience Database and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

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